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Who's going to grasp the golden statue this Sunday? Check out the Missourian staff's academy choices. see **8A**

Campus

Regents approve tuition increase for the 2006-2007 academic year of six percent.

see **ONLINE** for full story

Two more English faculty receive writing awards. see **2A**

Local

Local residents care for Meow-Meow, the 14-year-old cat with cancer. see **7A**

The New Nodaway Humane Society is selling rubber mats for \$8 to help get the animals living there get off the cement floor. Space in the building is full and no more pets are being admitted at this time.

Sports

Five track athletes qualify for nationals on March 9-11 in Boston. see **1B**

Xavier Gaines talks about his long journey leading to Northwest. see **4C**

National

Southern Oklahoma endures wildfires forcing over 500 people to evacuate.

A Des Moines, Iowa, woman fakes own death in order to avoid paying traffic tickets.

Health Security warns avian flu might hit U.S. flocks soon.

Random facts



It takes about 142.18 licks to reach the center of a Tootsie op.

In 1977 there were 37 Elvis impersonators in the world. In 1993, there were 48,000. At this rate, by the year 2010 one out of every three people will be an Elvis impersonator.



Today in history

1931—"The Star-Spangled Banner" becomes official as President Herbert Hoover signs a congressional act making it the official national anthem of the United States.

1965—Temptations' "My Girl" reaches No. 1.

1997—Howard Stern Radio Show premieres in Fayetteville North Carolina on WRQC 103.5

Road funds increase

By Dennis Sharkey
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The Missouri Department of Transportation has changed their philosophy and it means more money for Nodaway county highways.

MODOT Northwest District Transportation Planning Manager Shannon Kusilek addressing the Northwest Regional Council of Governments last week said two things have factored into area roads receiving attention.

Kusilek said the last couple of years the department has changed its road classification system.

Under the old system roads were classified based on a five tier ranking system. Under the old system, roads like Highway 136 were not classified as a major roadway.

Now MODOT has gone to a major/minor ranking system. Under the new classification Highway 136 is now a major road way and can draw more funds.

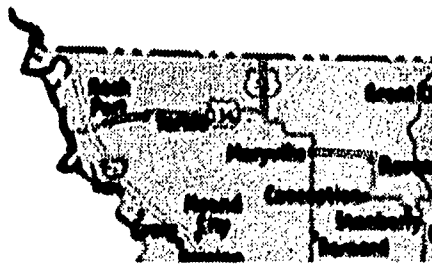
"Route 136 before was not really classified as a major roadway and now it is," Kusilek said. "That's going to force us to put a little more money into

see **ROADS** on **8A**

Over \$50 million will be spent on Route 136 and Highway 71

Work will include:

- Wider Driving lanes
- Shoulder work
- Resurfacing
- 11 bridges re-decked
- 1 bridge replaced



Areas in red indicate construction zones

Map from www.visitmo.com

AG FACULTY VISIT SOYBEAN OPERATIONS



NORTHWEST PLANT scientists (from left to right) Carey Stroburg, Jamie Patton, Thomas Zweifel and Rego Jones visit Romairan fields in conjunction with Good View LLC.

Brazilian excursion

By Jessica Schmidt
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A voyage to South America made the agricultural world seem a little bit smaller to four Northwest plant scientists.

On Feb. 17, the group, from Northwest's department of agriculture, returned from a trip to the northern region of Brazil. Thomas Zweifel, Carey Stroburg, Rego Jones and Jamie Patton met with representatives from Good View LLC, a U.S.-based Brazilian agricultural investment corporation, and toured farms and a university in the northern state of Roraima.

Brazil is currently the second-

leading producer and exporter of soybeans behind the United States and is expected to surpass the United States in production as more undeveloped land comes under cultivation.

"That's one of the striking images you are left with, there is a huge potential for development, especially in terms of land," Zweifel said. "They have so much that is just not developed yet and could be turned into productive land."

During the first few days of the trip, the group met with professors from the Federal University of Roraima. The university members showed the group cooperative research farms, and traded scientific data, pictures and

seed samples.

The group hopes to remain in contact with the university so they can continue to exchange information and possibly even establish a student-exchange program.

Patton said a major goal of the trip was to bring back what they've learned and incorporate it into their classrooms at Northwest.

"We talk about all of these concepts in our courses and now we have experience and first-hand knowledge," Patton said. "These things are invaluable to bring back into the classrooms."

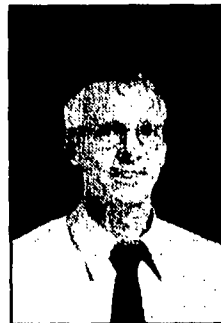
The group got off to a rocky start

see **BRAZIL** on **8A**



Rego Jones
Horticulturalist

"I just wanted to get a feel of what was going on down there... because Brazil has surpassed the U.S. in some of their production. In the global economy we are in, you have to be aware of what other people are doing."



Thomas Zweifel
Agronomist

"That's one of the striking images you are left with, there is a huge potential for development, especially in terms of land. They have so much that is just not developed yet, and could be turned into productive land."



Jamie Patton
Soils Specialist

"We talk about all of these concepts in our courses and now we have experience and first-hand knowledge. These things are invaluable to bring back in to the classrooms."

NEWSRELEASE

Regents approve tuition increase

The Northwest Board of Regents has approved a 6 percent increase in base resident undergraduate tuition for the 2006-2007 academic year.

Resident undergraduates now pay \$133.50 per credit hour in basic tuition. Next year that figure will increase to \$141.50. Scholarship, debt service, facility and academic equipment fees bring the total per-credit-hour cost to \$182.50, plus \$12 in textbook and technology fees. Last year's total was \$172.50.

Non-resident undergraduate students at Northwest will continue to pay out-of-state tuition but face about the same percentage increases as in-state residents.

In addition, the new fee schedule contains increased costs for

food and housing. The charge for a "traditional" double-occupancy residence hall room and meal plan will rise from \$5,492 per year to \$5,854, an increase of \$362. Activity and health fees add another \$210.

A resident undergraduate student, living and eating on campus and taking 15 credit hours of courses, will pay about \$5,950 for one trimester, or \$11,899 over the nine-month academic year, compared to the current rate of \$11,237.

Total non-resident costs come to \$16,144 for undergraduates. Last year's total was \$15,242. Actual room and board costs will vary with individual preference, since the University provides a number of meal and housing options.

Blunt thinks MOHELA sale will be smooth

By Dennis Sharkey
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Some Democrats have questions of the legality of appropriating Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority (MOHELA) assets.

Republicans can't decide how to spend the money.

A bill introduced into the Senate on Tuesday may answer those problems.

The bill introduced by Senator Chuck Graham D-19, would grant MOHELA the ability to sell its assets and outlines how the process would work.

The bill states appropriations would go to public colleges and universities to create fund-endowed professorships, loans and grants and capitol projects.

To oversee the process, a commission would be created called the "Higher Education Loan Authority of the State of Missouri."

It also states under no circumstances could asset funds be used towards paying off state incurred debt.

Another problem facing the sale is exactly just how the money is spent.

Under Gov. Matt Blunt's plan,

money would be set aside to fund 20 capitol improvement projects throughout the state's public higher education institutions.

House Republicans have a different idea. They believe more money should go to scholarships and grants as opposed to capitol improvements. They also would like to spend some of the money to pay down the state's debt. Also under their plan Northwest would not receive money for the "Center of Excellence in Plant Biologics" and the math and science building at Missouri Western State University.

The governor believes that in

the end his plan will win out but is not against listening to modifications to his plan. He doesn't believe the differences between the two proposals would stop or even slow down the sale process of the MOHELA assets. He believes a resolution will be made by the end of the legislative session in May and construction on most of these projects will begin early next year if they have not already.

"We're going to have some healthy discussions," Blunt said. "At the end of the day it will look similar to what I announced."

see **BLUNT** on **8A**



PHOTO BY JESSA BEARS / NWMISSOURIAN

AUTHOR BRAD LAND entertained a room packed with people Thursday night. Land read excerpts from his memoir "Goat."

Author shares hazing experience

By Tara Adkins
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Nothing stopped him from pouring out details from his brutally intense novel.

Through the efforts of the Visiting Writer Series and Kawasaki Motors, Brad Land, author of *Goat* published in 2005 by Random House, visited Northwest last Thursday to share about his fraternity hazing experiences.

Land read excerpts from his first novel, which described his destructive past with the falsehood of his fraternity, Kappa Sigma, of Clemson University. From being beaten by strangers, dumped in the woods and breaking down to the point of keeping all his secrets to himself, Land revealed an unforgettable past.

"Then the smile's feet in my mouth. The breath beside me, his feet in my stomach. My eyes clouded and the blood foaming on my lips, running down my chin. It's falling down my chest and there's so

much blood I'm drinking it, the smile in front of me now, his warm breath on my cheek, he's looking me square in the face," Land quoted from his memoir.

After these experiences, Land encouraged students to stay cautious and never fall subject to anything they are unwilling to do.

"It (Clemson) was a beautiful place, but a lot of ghosts... a lot of ghosts," Land said.

Land is currently working on his second novel, titled *Break the Hearts of Great Me*, a story about young runaway lovers.

Land served as a non-fiction editor of *Third Coast* at Western Michigan University and is a Fellow at the MacDowell Colony.

The Visiting Writers Series continues at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 16, in room 3500 of Colden Hall. Missouri native Debra Di Blasi will read from her works, which include *Drought* and *Say What You Like* and *Prayers of an Accidental Nature*.

Ceremony, forum wrap up Black Achievement Month

By Evan Young
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Northwest students and faculty had the opportunity to celebrate the end of Black Achievement Month during a program hosted by the Minority Men Organization Tuesday night.

The evening began with a closing ceremony, during which Ame Lambert, coordinator of minority affairs, stressed the end of Black Achievement Month was really a "bridge" into March's Women's History Month.

"As we transition from the celebration of African-American history to women's history, we ask that you don't forget the struggles or the triumphs each group has experienced," Lambert said. "A bridge spans the gap. We are the bridge. We stand in the gap for all those who have been and are being

oppressed.

"Whoever you are, wherever you are, whatever you are being oppressed because of, we see you, we hear you."

The program continued with an encore presentation of the skit, "A Day Without Black People." Students acted as different black inventors to show how life would be like without these inventors, who gave the world a number of everyday items, such as the comb, mop, clothes dryer and pencil sharpener.

The forum covered a variety of topics, including interracial relationships, homosexuality versus Christianity, derogatory slang and affirmative action.

"The theme is multicultural. This is not just about black and white," said junior Brian Brooks, forum moderator.

Freshman Brittney West said out of all the terms used to classify different

racess and cultures, there is one that is hardly used at all.

"Why don't we use 'us'?" West said. "Why is it so important to use these negative words that cut so deep?"

Lambert said the forum was a good way for faculty to learn how students feel on important race issues.

"It's always interesting to come and hear what students have to say," she said. "There's a huge generational gap. We need to know where they're coming from so we can do our job."

The MMO hopes to begin hosting discussion forums every month. Senior Ukpong Eyo said the plan is good because it can help Northwest improve cultural diversity on campus.

"I like how the MMO can address the serious issues on campus," Eyo said. "Northwest is a great school, but we can make it better."

'DK' to deliver Ploghoft lecture

By Brett Barger
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Dan Kahler, the longtime radio voice of the University of Kansas Jayhawks, will deliver this spring's Ploghoft Diversity lecture.

The Ploghoft lecture series began after a donation from Milton Ploghoft. Ploghoft is a 1949 graduate of Northwest.

Lecturers are selected for their contributions to the ideals of racial harmony, intercultural understanding and internationalism.

The lecture is scheduled for 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 8, in the Mary Linn Performing Arts Center on

the Northwest campus.

For more than a decade, Kahler served as a sports analyst with the University of Kansas radio network, providing color commentary during football and basketball games and also serving as a television commentator for football.

His education career took him to Southwestern College where he earned 15 athletic letters.

He also participated in the East-West all-star basketball game in Madison Square Garden.

In 1950 he was part of the first world championship basketball tournament, when he played for the

United States in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

He began his education career in Arkansas City, Kan., as an English teacher.

After teaching, Kahler switched to a community college, coaching the line on the football team.

His biggest success came when he coached basketball. As a coach, he went 170-48 winning four state titles, six conference titles and a regular-season national championship.

In 1959, Kahler became principal of Arkansas City High School and held the same position in Lawrence, Kan., and at Oak Park High School in North Kansas

City, Mo.

After retiring in 1986, Kahler began writing and doing college lectures.

Today Kahler continues to write, speak and participate in community service. He published his first book in 2001 entitled *Successful Schools: Achieving Excellence through STAR Theory*.

Some of Kahler's accolades include the Greater Kansas City Teacher of the Year Award, Kindest Kansas Citizen Award, the Missouri Pioneer in Education Award from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and membership in a number of sports halls of fame.

Poetry pays for English faculty members

By Evan Young
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Several years of hard work have paid off for two faculty members in Northwest's department of English.

Rebecca Aronson and John Gallaher, assistant professors of English, recently received creative writing awards for poetry.

Aronson won the Main Traveled Roads Press poetry book prize for her work, entitled *Creature*, and Gallaher earned the 2005 Levis Poetry Prize for *The Little Book of Guesses*.

Both honors include \$1000 cash and publication of the submitted works.

Aronson said *Creature* is primarily a collection of observations about nature.

"There are a lot of different things going on, but a lot of the poems are focused on the intersection between the natural world and humans—looking at the world and the world looking back at us," she said.

Creature is Aronson's first book. She said she is ready to start new projects,



John Gallaher
Assistant Professor of English

despite the extensiveness of the production process.

"I was working on the (*Creature*) manuscript for a long time, and every time I wrote a new poem that I liked, I put it into the old manuscript and sort of shuffled the poems around,"

Aronson said.

"For a long time I've just been refining and messing with that manuscript. Now that it's officially done, I feel like I can start something new."

Guesses is Gallaher's second book. His first, *Gentlemen in Turbans, Ladies in Cauts*, was published in 2001.

Gallaher said he has been writing for most of his life.

"I can't think of a time I really haven't been; I've always been interested," he said. "I was one of those kids who wrote little notes or novels about my toys."

However, Gallaher said it took him a few years to realize poetry was his



Rebecca Aronson
Assistant Professor of English

niche.

"My writing was originally influenced by music, influenced by artists like Bob Dylan," he said.

"It wasn't until I started reading poems by writers like E.E. Cummings that I realized poetry is more than just writing a song and putting words on a page."

Aronson and Gallaher's awards come only about a month after fellow English instructor James Arthur won the Amy Lowell Poetry Travelling Scholarship, which pays him \$47,000 to spend a year writing poetry outside North America.

Gallaher said it is uncommon for three poets from one institution to win prestigious awards in one year.

"It's freaky; it's not the way things usually work," Gallaher said. "To have the kind of luck we've had in this little corner of Missouri is like hitting the lottery—very improbable, but very amazing."

Creature, *Creature* and *The Little Book of Guesses* are scheduled for release in Spring 2007.

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Horace Mann hosts book fair

By Kristin Summers
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The Northwest chapter of the Student Missouri State Teachers Association will host its annual spring book fair at the Horace Mann Laboratory School Library Monday, March 6, through Friday, March 10.

The fair will offer a variety of books ranging from small children to adult interest provided by Scholastic Inc., hours for the fair are from 7:35 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The organization is for future teachers and is a branch of the state organization Missouri State Teachers Association, president of SMSTA Erin McCullough said.

"It's (SMSTA) great for students. It provides professional development, workshops for discipline, how to have an interactive classroom, networking, being able to talk with other teachers and brings a certain amount of credibility to your resume," McCullough said.

Money made from the book fair usually goes to the Horace Mann Library for books and the remainder goes back to SMSTA. This year, some of the money will also go to the Horace Mann Laboratory School teachers' wish list," McCullough said.

"It's getting toward the end of the year and the crayons are broken, markers are drying out and you're out of glue and just things like that," McCullough said. "We are trying to fulfill some of the things that each of the teachers have on their wish list to help them, to give back to the Horace Mann community."

The fair features a new program by Scholastic called "One for Books." One dollar donations collected by the library will go to children unable to purchase books at the book fair. Money donated will be matched by Scholastic and given to three non-profit organizations to buy books for children.

"It's a good way to get additional resources for the classroom and the library," graduate assistant to the Horace Mann Library Miranda Lyle said.

Both Lyle and McCullough said reading is essential to a child's education.

"I think it's very important. I have kids of my own and I started reading to them before they were even born," Lyle said.

Anti-violence speaker planned

By Lindsay Jacobs
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She has expertise in multiple assailant attacks, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, Krav Mega, car jacking responses, knives and edged weapons defense and firearms training.

Northwest will host sexual assault and violence prevention presentation Wednesday, March 8, in the J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom.

Erin Weed, the founder of "Girls Fight Back", will present "Girls Fight Back" 6 p.m. for girls only, and "How to be a Bad Victim" at 7 p.m. which is open to everyone.

After the murder of her sorority sister, Weed was inspired to travel full time and give presentations to schools, colleges and corporations on womens' empowerment and safety issues.

Weed's teaching style uses empowerment instead of fear, and simple techniques instead of complicated self-defense moves.

Weed is a licensed personal trainer, who has self-defense certifications and instructor ratings from the American Women's Self Defense Association, Street Smart Self Defense for Women, the Modern Warrior Academy, and Rape Aggression Defense (RAD).

Troy Tysdahl, program coordinator for campus activ-

ities, said this presentation will be the last of six leadership builders programs attempting to cover a different aspects of leadership with every program.

Virginia Murr, director of wellness and assistant director of health services, said there are several things Northwest does to prevent violence such providing pamphlets to students and their parents at SOAR, lighting all areas of campus at night, and installing of emergency phones.

"I think that violence affects everybody so whether someone has personally been the victim of a physical attack, sexual assault, hate crimes, biased crimes, and stalking, Murr said. "Even if we've not personally had that happen to us we probably know someone who has had it happen."

Murr also said violence tends to be hidden, and there has been a lot of hard work to raise awareness. Weed's anti-violence program has been recognized in *The New York Times*, *Glamour Magazine*, and *Ladies Home Journal*.

Weed was also Cosmo-Girl of the Year in 2002 by *CosmoGirl Magazine* and was awarded the Hometown Hero award from John Walsh, founder and host of the "America's Most Wanted" television show.

An Overview of Northwest's Sexual Assault Education, Prevention and Response Program

Education

■ Summer Orientation sessions (SOAR) for students and parents to outline Northwest policies and practices

■ New student orientation programs for incoming freshmen students. Mandatory programs presented by Health Center and Campus Safety on prevention, response and support

■ Presentations by Health Center and Campus Safety in Freshmen Seminar programs and residence halls

■ Participation in Get Carded Day, a national day sponsored by the Rape, Assault, and Incest National Network to provide cards to students with information about prevention and response

Crime Prevention

■ Environmental design to maximize safety lighting

■ Escort program

■ Campus Safety training

■ Safe Ride program

Programs

■ Campus sexual assault hotline

■ Sexual assault support group

■ Victim counseling by Counseling Center

■ Peer Education programming during Sexual Responsibility Week

'Gala' to help grant recipients

By Andrew Glover
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If a loud boom wakes you up on the night of Saturday, March 18, don't worry, it's only fireworks being shot off at the Northwest Centennial Gala.

The gala is not just a celebration of Northwest's 100 years as an institution; but also celebrating the conclusion of the Campaign for Northwest.

The last thing to be celebrated is the American Dream Grant, which all proceeds from the event will go towards.

The American Dream Grant is a grant set up to help students from lower income families afford a college education.

This event is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. and according to Orrie Covert, vice president of University Advancement, shouldn't conclude until late that night and into Sunday morning.

"I think this is going to be an event that is worth saying up late for," Covert said. "We've got an exciting evening planned from start to finish, which includes a live band going until midnight, fireworks late in the evening; we're probably looking at 11 p.m. for that."

The event has many highlights such as "The Rumbles" performing live music for the night.

There will also be live and silent auctions, a catered dinner by Aramark, a short program, as well as a time for socializing and dancing.

A lucky attendee will also have the chance to leave the gala with a new vehicle.

To be eligible to win either a Ford Fusion, Jeep Wrangler or a Harley-Davidson motorcycle you must be in attendance and keep your ticket.

Advancement Communications Specialist Mitzi Lutz also adds that some of the live and silent auctions items are rather nice and people will have a chance to win such things like Kansas City Chiefs' tickets and airfare to Cancun, Mexico.

Lutz said that all the items up for auction have been donated and that there are over 400 total auction items.

Both Covert and Lutz said the response to the numerous invitations sent out has been incredible.

"I know that there will be people there from the east coast, both coasts," Lutz said.

The advancement center sent out over 1,000 invita-

tions to alumni, Northwest staff and faculty as well as prominent figures in the community.

Of the 1,000 plus invitations the response has been great, and much to the pleasure to the planners of the event.

"We've had a really overwhelming (reaction to the response)," Covert said. "Our goal was to get 200 individuals and we've done that. We actually exceeded our expectations, we'll have over 200 individuals coming back."

Having this type of celebration made the decision to make the gala a formal gathering much easier.

Covert feels that making it a formal function it will make it seem more like an event held in Kansas City, Mo., or Omaha, Neb.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Former CNBC news anchor to speak in lecture series

Bob Arnot, medical anchor for CNBC's "dLife," is the next speaker in Northwest's Distinguished Lecture Series. His presentation, free and open to the public, is scheduled for 8 p.m. Monday, March 6, in the Mary Linn Performing Arts Center.

The author of numerous books on medicine and health, including *Seven Steps to Stop a Heart Attack*, Arnot was a health reporter for CBS News before joining NBC in 1996.

A veteran foreign correspondent, Arnot rose to prominence in the 90s for his coverage of the Gulf War, the Rwandan genocide and civil wars in Burundi, the Congo, Iran, Sudan, Somalia, Mozambique, Uganda and Kosovo. At the beginning of the war on terrorism, he filed a series of reports from Pakistan prior to U.S. retaliation for the Sept. 11 attacks.

A veteran pilot, Arnot has covered a number of air disasters over the years, including the plane wreck that killed John F. Kennedy, Jr.

Kappa Sigma sponsors cancer society fundraiser

The Northwest chapter of the Kappa Sigma fraternity will sponsor its annual "Dream Girl" beauty pageant at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 14, in Charles Johnson Theatre.

Contestants will be judged in three categories: talent, formal wear and question/answer.

Audience members will be eligible for door prizes donated by local businesses, and the student organization with the greatest percentage of its members attending will receive a \$50 donation to the philanthropy of their choice.

Tickets cost \$4 in advance and \$5 at the door. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society.

For tickets or information about entering and sponsoring a contestant, e-mail S232334@nwmissouri.edu or S246551@nwmissouri.edu.

Encore presents "Die Fledermaus"

Northwest's Encore performing arts series will present the Helicon Opera production of Johann Strauss' "Die Fledermaus" (The Bat) at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 10, in the Mary Linn Performing Arts Center.

One of the world's most popular operas, much of the music from "Die Fledermaus" has been used in everything from commercials to cartoons.

Tickets to "Die Fledermaus" cost \$18 and can be purchased at the Student Services Center on the first floor of the Administration Building 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Tickets are also available by telephone at 562-1212 or online at Nwmissouri.edu/tickets.

KXCV/KRNW plans summer trip

Northwest's radio station, KXCV/KRNW, has announced a summer trip to Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, Canada.

The radio station is the National Public Radio affiliate for the Northwest campus.

The Cabot Trail, one of the most scenic drives on the Atlantic coast, is among the many features of the 11-day trip that begins July 24. Other highlights include: Halifax, Peggy's Cove, Gros Morne National Park, Exploits Valley, Grand Falls, Silent Witness Memorial, Terra Nova National Park, Twillingate, Signal Hill and St. John's.

Rates are \$2,340 for patrons and \$2,389 for non-patrons. A deposit of \$200 is required; spots are open on a first come, first-serve basis. For more information, call Gayle Hull, KXCV/KRNW tour coordinator, at 562-1163 or go Kxcv.org.

Visiting Artist Series continues with painter Mark Lewis

The Northwest Art Department's Visiting Artist Series continues with an exhibit by painter Mark Lewis.

The free exhibit opens Monday, March 6, in the Olive DeLuce Fine Arts Gallery, and closes Friday, March 31. Exhibit hours are 6 to 9 p.m. Monday, 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1:30 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

In addition, Lewis will give a free lecture on painting at 7 p.m. March 6, in room 244 of the same building.



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Wal-Mart in Maryville is now hiring for a variety of positions, including a large number of temporary associates for remodel in April. Applications are now being accepted on-site. Please visit the Courtesy Desk or Layaway to complete an electronic application at 1605 South Main in Maryville.

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MAILCALL

Ports should be left to U.S.

Not since Sept. 11 has the American public united as unanimously on an issue as in regards to the transition of American commercial ports to the hands of the United Arab Emirates (UAE.)

We at the *Northwest Missourian* now wish to add our voices to the chorus.

One almost can't help but call "shenanigans" on this entire deal.

Even looking past the UAE involvement on both sides of the War on Terror, recent events and rumblings tend to make certain charitable contributions to American causes—namely, the War on Terror, a \$1 million contribution to the George Bush Professional Library at Texas A&M and \$100 million in aid to victims of Hurricane Katrina—appear to be more drawn-out buy-out tactics than charitable contributions. The whole mess now wreaks of tit-for-tat.

But don't hold Bush entirely innocent, either. On his end, his "or-else" veto threats to the opposition that would stand in the way of the ports' transition amount to a demand, a petty threat with no redeeming element of diplomacy.

And the sum of it all? Valid, yet-to-be-convincingly addressed concerns for American ports under foreign control would end up shoved to the distant horizon, so that America can send a "positive message" to the Middle East.

Yes, that message becomes clear: The United States comes across like the skinny, awkward middle-schooler who will do whatever anyone else tells him to, because he just wants to be liked.

Following that example, officials from the UAE have yet to explain away the unsettling contradiction of their benefactor status to the US, and their links to the very terrorist groups they allegedly want to help the United States combat—including their previous diplomatic ties to the Taliban.

However, their yearning for United States protection makes sense, given their position in the Middle East amidst political heavyweights such as Iraq, Iran and Saudi Arabia.

They've already, in the past, contracted for \$6.5 billion with Lockheed-Martin for 80 F-16 fighters.

This smells of a nation needing support and hedging their bets.

If America wants something done right, we can only be sure that happens by doing it ourselves. In an address to the Northwest Regional Council of Governments last Thursday, Rep.

Sam Graves said "UAE is obviously very cooperative when it comes to the U.S. war on terrorism but I don't want them running our ports."

"Two terrorists in 9-11 were based in UAE. I want to find out why the President supports this. Regardless, I am against this and it makes no sense to me."

Though the United States need not revert to the isolationism of a pre-World War II era, we can keep our own house clean and handle our own business.



IN THE NEWS: POP STAR GEORGE MICHAEL WAS FOUND UNCONSCIOUS, AND ARRESTED ON DRUG CHARGES.

Looking for a job? Clean up your Facebook, other personal Web sites

Breast Fest '06 at Mardi Gras last weekend might seem initially awesome upon posting photos on Facebook—in all your bead-collecting glory—when everyone from your friends list leaves comments as reminders of how your brazenness is appreciated.

But without the proper privacy settings, your Facebook.com album full of your cleavage or other wild antics might leave you jobless.

According to a recent Purdue University study, nearly 23 percent of employers surveyed review candidates' profiles on social networking sites.

Employers look to Facebook.com to gauge an employee based upon profiles and pictures as determinants of interests and behavior.

Faith Defined



Stephanie Stangl
Co-Editor in Chief

Founded in February 2004, Facebook.com, an online social directory connecting thousands of college and high school students, boasts more than 6 million users and 15,000 new accounts every day.

"Facebook was intentionally designed to limit the availability of your profile to only your friends and other students at your school," the Facebook.com privacy statement reads.

However, this is far from the case. With the right settings, virtually anyone, including potential employers logged in under an alumni e-mail address, can access your site—lewd photos and all.

This proves true for blog Web sites such as Xanga.com and Myspace.com, as well. A quick "Google" of your name

often produces a link to your Web site. The same Purdue University study revealed 45.7 percent of employers use search engines such as Google to review potential candidates and 14.3 percent review personal Web sites and blogs.

This can at least be partially remedied. Removing your last name from your Xanga.com account makes it more daunting to locate the site and your description of an amorous tryst or a flashing escapade.

Additionally, Facebook.com provides a simple way to increase the privacy of your account.

Under the "Normal" setting, everyone can search for you. Your friends and everyone at your school can see your profile. Click on the "Reserved" setting so everyone can still search for you, but only your friends and friends of your friends at your school can view your profile. You can adjust your settings to "Paranoid"

to make it so only people at your school can search for you. Under "Custom" you can use the "Advanced Setting" tab to block members or limit the access of what certain people can and cannot see.

Don't want your ex-boyfriend to see pictures of the new boyfriend or professors to see any of your albums at all? Click on "Limiting Profile Access" to determine what these people can view on your profile, and simply add their name to the list of those to have limited access.

However, the morality of employers "Googling" you and basing merits of candidacy upon the photos of you from a wild college weekend is topic for a completely different column. Ethical or not this "Big Brother" syndrome of blogs and Facebook.com remains reality.

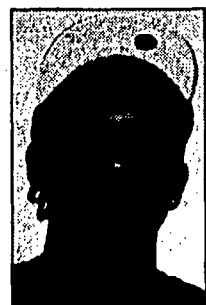
So, come April, if you plan to graduate, I suggest cleaning up your act—and your Facebook.

CAMPUSTALK

What would you as governor for a day?



"I would probably make the sidewalks heated and cancel class if it gets really bad, and I'd make lower tuition for out-of-state,"
Brook Roberts
Undecided



"Make sure court decisions go the way they're supposed to go,"
Darrin Roberts
Business



"Lower tuition,"
Mallory Parker
Interactive Digital Media



"Meet with people and explain what I do because not a lot of people know what the governor does,"
Josh Motsinger
Parks and Recreation



"Do they have money? I would pay off all my loans and buy my boyfriend and I a car...and I'd cancel classes,"
Rachael Chase
Elementary/Early Childhood Education

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Regentrification in St. Louis

As I write this column from the city of St. Louis, the ever shifting balance between rich and poor surrounds me on all sides.

A mere look outside the window displays the impact regentrification has had on St. Louis.

Regentrification, the process by which the wealthy buy land formerly occupied by the wealthy but presently occupied by the poor, takes place on an impressive scale in this city and others across the nation.

As in many major cities over the past 50 years, a mass exodus of whites has taken place. This "white flight," as it is termed, has led to a disastrous fall in the tax base of the city of St. Louis. Since declaring itself independent of St. Louis County, the city has been constrained to its 1876 borders.

The city government at the time did not want to pay for the infrastructure of the largely rural and sparsely populated county. Because of this statute, it cannot expand to bring in the expatriated wealth of St. Louis County today.

This wrought dire consequences on the city's revenue; however, this is rapidly changing.

In the 80s, few would venture into the downtown area of St. Louis. Fast forward 25 years and the situation is starkly different. Instead of buildings blighted from disuse, a thriving urban nightlife has evolved in the whole of downtown, especially in the LaCade's Landing district north of the Arch.

Numerous businesses and restaurants have been brought into the area by corporate re-development. Trendy loft apartments have sprung up around downtown St. Louis.

As a result, the city has initiated the process of bringing the wealth of suburban young professionals back to the city. If current trends continue, regentrification will undoubtedly occur at a much faster pace in years to come.

The process of regentrification is not without its victims, however. Landlords charging higher rent have

For the Record



Ky Sebastian Kessler
Contributing Columnist

forced poverty-stricken occupants of regentrified areas to move out.

These landlords often capitulate to pressure from realtors to sell their buildings, in which case new, areas attract largely new, service industry-oriented businesses.

Consequently, forward-thinking landlords renovate their buildings, attracting wealthier tenants.

Rent control laws serve to aid the poor in their fight against regentrification in other cities across the nation. St. Louis's ineffectual rent control laws are not halting the encroachment of the wealthy.

Instead, the poor are forced to the northern portion of the city and suburban areas formerly occupied by middle-class whites, such as those in northern St. Louis County. This has not helped the poor in any way.

Crime and poverty are pushed into poorer suburban areas. The poverty that was seen in the downtown and other areas of the city, such as the Delmar Loop district, is simply passed off on other city governments.

Many city councilors view the problem apathetically, considering the migration of the poor an issue for other city governments.

In spite of the negative aspects of regentrification, it has a positive effect on area economies.

Formerly impoverished districts are rejuvenated by large-scale investment, which produces an environment in which its citizens and businesses thrive.

It does force the poor out, as well as cause the area to lose some of its ethnic and architectural character; however, the benefits vastly outweigh the costs.

Regentrified areas are safer, wealthier, and create an altogether more positive image of the city, free of drugs, crime and poverty. Urban regentrification will undoubtedly be far more commonplace in years to come, advancing improvements in cities across the nation.

While some sacrifices must be made, cities need urban re-gentrification to create a brighter future for St. Louis and cities like it.

Learn lessons now, before history repeats itself

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." —George Santayana

I've always felt the connections one can draw between the past and the present are interesting. Although I do not think this quotation rings 100 percent true, it brings up an interesting point. Have our enemies today learned from our past? And if so, isn't it ironic that the military strategy that brought us our independence in 1781 threatens to be our demise today in Iraq?

There are strong correlations between today's insurgents in Iraq and the colonial rebels of the American Revolution in 1775. Perhaps more interesting, are the similarities between the British redcoats then, and our American-coalition forces today.

Similar to the British in 1775, we believe that a large military and technological advantage assures victory. However, technology and well-trained armies do not win in guerilla warfare. The British had an elite naval force with the fastest ships in the world, and a military well trained in a European fighting style. Likewise, it would be hard to argue that today's United States military and the coalition forces are technologically inferior to the Iraqi insurgents in any way.

Another parallel is in the traditional belief that once the capital city was as

Wrinkle in Time



Jessica Schmidt
Copy Editor

captured, the opposing army would surrender in defeat. When the British captured Philadelphia in 1777, the rebel government did not stop fighting. Those of us who thought the fighting would end after we captured Baghdad, were also misinformed.

Using METT-T, a military analytical tool, we share a common problem with the British in our mission. The mission is confounded. The British were

told to go to the colonies and fight the rebels, but then secure control and provide stability. It is hard to tell a soldier to kill first and show mercy later. We face the same problem today in Iraq. The goal is to capture the insurgents, yet protect the citizens. What is the real difference though? Comrade and enemy look alike. Rage against the intruders builds quickly and adds to the insurgency when a soldier mistakenly shoots an innocent civilian.

"It's like trying to track down a bunch of ghosts," Sgt. Chad Wendel told the *Washington Post*. "It makes you wonder, what do you gain by sticking around?"

The insurgents also have time on their side. Like it or not, industrialized countries have a time limit for war. When the citizens believe technology will win in guerilla warfare, it doesn't take long before they become agitated at the amount of time and money spent in another country. In 2003,

President Bush told America that the war would cost \$1.7 billion, but today the total is up to \$250 billion. Things like this make citizens impatient and uneasy. It becomes even harder to convince a country that war is worth it when the reason we are there to begin with is also uncertain.

Say what you will of the weapons of mass destruction and Saddam debacle, but the Bush administration has yet to clearly justify the reason why we are in Iraq. The redcoats had the same issue in 1775; many citizens did not care if the colonies were reunited with the empire. After the war was over many British citizens were just happy to be back in trade with the Americans. The war in Britain was not a popular one with its citizens; the year 1780 was witness to riots over military policies.

What is most frustrating is the fact that we have not learned from our past. Although we were on the opposing end in 1775, we were nonetheless involved.

The good news is recent reports from the *Washington Post* point to a significant change in tactics than previous years in Iraq. Soldiers are slowly turning the control of the country back over to the Iraqis and battles seem to center more around Baghdad. Even though the threat of civil war lingers, we are providing stability; Iraqi soldiers are replacing coalition soldiers on the street corners. The Iraqis are slowly taking back their government and there is hope, but only if we learn from our past and our mistakes.

Looking forward with Lewis and Clark

Together we are moving Missouri forward by capitalizing on our new-found entrepreneurial spirit in the fields of biotechnology, plant and animal sciences and other life science endeavors.

These industries are already providing \$24 billion in annual economic benefit and thousands of high-paying jobs in our state. These fields represent the next great expansion of opportunity for Missourians. I want to continue to position Missouri as a national and global leader in this emerging area, which is why I created the Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative.

The Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative is a forward-thinking investment in economic growth and education in key industries. It is an exciting opportunity for our state to position itself as the leader in expanding fields of study and to give back to Missouri college students and

For the Record



Matt Blunt
Governor

their universities.

By taking advantage of assets available to the state today, this bold initiative will secure \$450 million that will benefit Missouri's public institutions of higher learning to help enhance and facilitate growth in our emerging biotechnology and life-sciences industries. The Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority (MOHELA) has proposed selling a portion of their assets and donating them to the

state to fund this progressive initiative. The Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative will provide \$300 million for capital improvement projects, \$100 million for student scholarships, \$30 million to enhance growth and development of technology businesses all across our state and \$20 million for endowed professorships at universities throughout the state.

The initiative that I have proposed

includes a package of 20 capital improvement projects, most of which had already been approved by the Coordinating Board of Higher Education and include plant science research centers, health science research and education centers, business incubators and the renovation of other spaces that will support the training and research of professionals in the sciences, which includes doctors and nurses.

The proposal has garnered the support of university presidents, chancellors, student groups and trade organizations across the state.

Discussion of this proposal is unfolding, and I look forward to continued dialogue in the coming weeks. Together as a state we must decide whether or not we want to be a leader in biotechnology and life sciences. This is our opportunity and we must take advantage of it. We must not allow naysayers to stand in the way of progress and the Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative, or the promise it holds for all Missourians.

Helping small businesses helps Missouri

The back bone of Missouri's economy is small businesses. They make up 80 percent of the businesses in this state and employ almost 600 thousand people. Their success means prosperity and jobs while their failure means hardships and struggles. Without these risk-takers, Missouri would be nowhere near as prosperous as it is today.

This year, we have an opportunity to pass legislation that will help small busi-

Capitol Report



Brad Leger
Missouri Representative

nesses improve access to affordable health care for their employees. If successful, this legislation would make it legal to form "small business group health plans" in Missouri. These health plans would be designed for the sole purpose of purchasing health insurance for small business employees. By joining together, all participants would benefit from greater bargaining power, economies of scale, and ultimately more

options for their health care coverage needs.

Currently, associations of similar businesses can purchase health insurance two years after establishing their association. Unfortunately, few insurance companies will insure them because of all the federal regulations. By changing state statute to allow for this new type of group plan, the National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB) estimates the reduction of cost for Missouri's small businesses could be between 15 percent and 30 percent; thereby allowing more small businesses to offer coverage

to their employees.

Small business group health plans will increase access to affordable health insurance for small businesses and their employees. They will reduce the ability to purchase reasonable health care coverage and stay competitive.

Finally, Missouri's small businesses will be able to offer quality benefits, experience lower administrative costs and benefit from greater bargaining power. In the end, we will be able to cover more small business employees and reduce the number of uninsured Missourians.

Soldiers deserve better from lenders

As many brave American troops fight in the war on terrorism overseas, here at home we appreciate their courage and sacrifice. Serving your country in a time of war is a noble calling, but it also requires time away from loved ones.

The front lines of the War on Terror are filled with daily dangers we can only imagine.

That is why I cannot understand why some payday-lender would target American troops here at home with loans whose average annual percentage rate is near 400 percent.

Yet that is exactly what is happening today in the United States.

A national study confirmed that predatory lenders cluster around military bases more than any other location. Companies specifically target soldiers and offer them short-term, high-inter-

Straight Talk



Sam Groves
U.S. Congressman

est loans which seem like quick cash.

Interest rates quickly rise and automatically roll over until they are so far in debt that they cannot get out of it. We can do better for our troops. I have introduced legislation that caps the annual percentage rate that these companies can charge soldiers and their families.

You can still lend soldiers money, but you cannot charge 400 percent.

This bill would limit those companies that seek to target our troops. My bill is supported by 55 members of Congress and the 5.5 million-member military coalition.

It is bi-partisan, common sense legislation that is sorely needed. Soldiers who protect us overseas should not be taken advantage of at home.

Class helps needy with can drive

By Allison Glasscock
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Some Northwest students will earn class credit and help feed the children of Nodaway County at the same time.

To help feed children aged 5-19 whose families fall below the federal poverty line, the Family Resource Management class at Northwest started a food drive called, "Summer of Spaghetti O's."

The food drive, spearheaded by Northwest students Jeri Spire, Allison Kahre, Kenyetta Garth and Sarah Williams, aims to collect 550 cans of Spaghetti O's to help supplement the Maryville Ministry Center's "Brown Bag Lunch" program.

Each summer the Ministry Center's Program helps feed the county children who receive free or reduced lunches during the school year.

Last year, the center helped feed 110 children and distributed 2,218 meals.

Children do not have to attend summer school to take advantage of this free program.

Children involved in this program will receive enough food for one month, not including weekends. Each child gets 22 meal in June, 21 in July and 23 in August. According to Rod Shain, coordinator of food at the center, each "bag" contains 17 food items. These items include, but are not limited to, hot dogs and buns, peanut butter and jelly, bread, Spaghetti O's, macaroni and cheese, baby carrots and pieces of fresh fruit.

Unlike previous years there will be no pre-registration for the "Brown Bag Lunch" program. This doesn't mean there won't be any paper work though; parents must first be enrolled with the Ministry Center.

"We have to fill out paper work on everyone that comes," Shain said. "It's not really registration though. We do have to sign up families, but not ahead of time. If they come that day, they can get it (Brown Bag Lunches) that day."

Without the hassle of pre registration, Shain expects the number of meals served to go from almost 3,000 to almost 9,000.

At the most recent count,

250 cans of Spaghetti O's had been collected. Donations aren't limited to Spaghetti O's. Any non-perishable food item will be accepted and the need for food doesn't go away during the summer.

The largest contributor on campus is estimated to be Sigma Society. All of Northwest's Greek associations have been major donors to this program.

Donations of Spaghetti O's can be dropped off at any of the boxes in campus buildings, like the Student Union and the Residence Halls.

Spire, Kahre, Garth and Williams will deliver the donations from campus to the Ministry Center on March 8 and 9. The center itself accepts donations of all food items.

Items may be dropped of Monday, Wednesday, and



PHOTO BY ALEXIS HEJNA / NWMISSOURIAN
JAN CORLEY (left) and Mary Ann Zanzie divide up a batch of eggs at the Ministry Center. Corley encourages people who are interested in volunteering to come down.

Friday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursday 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

"We really want to thank the local community, as well as the fraternities and sororities for their help," Shain said.

Historical society to display traveling Smithsonian exhibit

By Jared Bailey
S267500@nwmissouri.edu

A taste of a famous institution's knowledge is ready for sampling.

An informational exhibit designed by the Smithsonian Museum in Washington D.C. will be open at the Nodaway County Historical Society Museum, from March 4 through April 15. No exhibit as big as this one has visited the society before.

Having major relevance to the farming community here in the Midwest, the museum's new showcase is completely about food and the ways in which America gains access to it.

"Key Ingredients," a showcase devoted entirely to the history and production of food, will include everything from hunting and gathering in pre-colonial times, to the mass production of crops in the modern era.

The display covers information on specific traditions involving numerous cuisines, ranging from the creation of gumbo in Louisiana to the selling of fresh seafood off wagons in Baltimore.

Composed entirely of large prop-up walls covered in food facts, the presentation involves everything from table manners to the development of restaurants to life in a home-style kitchen.

"You go to Italy, you eat

Italian food. You go to Germany, you eat German food. You come to America and you go down the street and you eat every variety," Tom Carneal of the the historical society said.

"We are a stew pot of culture and food. We also have such a bountiful amount of agricultural products. So what this is attempting to do is display all the different ways we have arrived at the way we are today."

The museum is the only one in the state north of the Missouri River to receive this traveling exhibit.

It has been in circulation since June 2005 and will return to Washington D.C. after it leaves Maryville.

The museum is open from 1p.m. to 4p.m., Monday through Friday. Admission is free to the public.

Convincing Smithsonian administrators Maryville was a good locale for the exhibit proved challenging. Eventually the Society had to prove that the community was interested in the cultural world of food by doing such things as creating a cookbook and organizing a Bean Soup Luncheon.

"It has taken a lot of hard work," Carelan Fisher of the society said.

"We have tried to involve as many people as we can and as many outside people to try to bring an interest throughout the area, not just the historical society. It's for the general public."

First day filing for offices in Nodaway County were made on Tuesday at the courthouse in Maryville.

Associate Circuit Judge
Glen Dietrich, Democrat

Presiding Commissioner
Lester Keith,
Democrat
Jason T. White,
Republican
Robert A. Martin,
Republican

Prosecutor
David Baird,
Democrat

Circuit Clerk
Patrick (Pat) O'Riley,
Democrat
Kim Carmichael, Democrat

County Clerk
Beth (Hann) Walker,
Democrat
Melissa D. Wallace,
Republican

Recorder
Sandra (Sandy) L. Smail,
Democrat

TuesDay was also the first day to file for state and U.S. offices with the Secretary of State Robin Carnahan.

U.S. Representative District 6

Sam Graves
Republican
Sara Jo Shettles
Democrat
Erik Buck
Libertarian

State Representative District 4

Mike Thomson
Republican

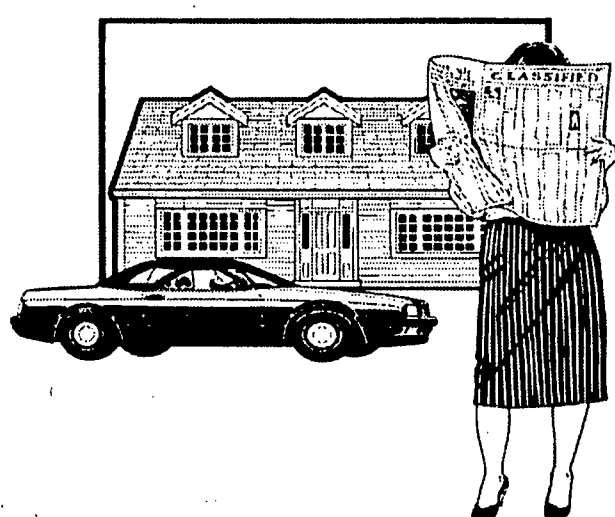
U.S Senate

Isaiah Hair Jr
Republican
Bill Clinton Young
Democrat
Frank Gilmour
Libertarian

State Senate District 12

Brad Lager
Republican
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Former Northeast employee pleads guilty

By Brett Barger
S203501@nwmissouri.edu

Kansas City, Mo. — A former Northeast Nodaway employee could serve up to 10 years in federal prison for hacking into the district's computer system.

Henry Curtis Underwood, 33, of Bloomington, Ill., pleaded guilty Feb. 21 before U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert E. Larsen, according to a press release, issued by Todd Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri.

The investigation began December 2004 when a Nodaway County Sheriff's Deputy,

investigating a \$200 theft from Parnell Elementary School, discovered Underwood was convicted of bank robbery in Texas in 1995.

He was sentenced to five years and three months in prison for the offense. Underwood failed to disclose his conviction in his job application.

Underwood was placed on administrative leave Jan. 27, 2005.

Two days later, all computers at the elementary school in Parnell and the high school in Ravenwood were disabled.

The only accounts remaining active were Underwood's

username "cunderwood" account and the username "administrator" account.

It was later discovered that Underwood had established a remote access to the district's computer network through Virtual Private Network (VPN).

The link to the Ravenwood school was established from his home using a laptop computer.

Underwood admitted in court he established a remote connection to the district's computer. However, Underwood did not admit to stealing \$200 from the school.

The Jan. 29 intrusion dis-

rupted the operations of the school district and full access was not restored until March 2005.

The disruption has cost the district more than \$7,000 in restoration costs as consultants were hired to repair the network and re-establish account access.

In addition to prison time, Underwood faces a \$250,000 fine and an order of restitution. The sentencing hearing has not been scheduled yet.

Northeast Nodaway Superintendent James Farmer refused to comment on the situation or the case.

CITYBRIEFS

Aquila rates to increase for Maryville residents

The Missouri Public Service Commission approved a settlement to increase electric rates for Aquila, Inc., customers.

Electric rates currently being paid by residential owners will increase by approximately 8.5 percent effective March 1. Customers who typically use 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity a month will see an approximate increase of \$6.90 per month on their bill.

"We believe this is a fair settlement for both our customers and the company because it allows us to recover the cost of substantial investments we have made to provide safe, reliable electric service," said Jon Empson, senior vice president of regulated operations for Aquila, in a recent release. "The increase reflects only the costs of providing utility service for our Missouri customers."

The rate increases will take place to recover the higher costs of fuel used for energy generation and investments made to meet the growing demand for electricity in the service areas.

Aquila, Inc., serves approximately 300,000 electric customers in the state of Missouri.

First Christian Church offers 'Faith and Science' class

Faith Crossings will present a four week class, "Faith and Science," at First Christian Church, 201 W. 3rd, Maryville. The class will meet from 9 to 10 a.m. every Sunday in March.

The class will be led by Jim Eiswert of Northwest Missouri State University and will discuss how science and religion conflict and complement each other. Eiswert will focus on some specific issues between the two.

The class is free to the community, but those interested are asked to register in advance. Registration forms may be obtained at First Christian Church, Poynter Gentle Dental office, Shell's Service Station and Kerry Meyers' State Farm Insurance office. Forms are due by March 3. For more information contact Lee Yates, co-pastor of First Christian Church, at (660) 582-4101.

Training sessions for pesticide applicator license available

There will be a Private Applicator Pesticide Training session at 7 p.m. tonight in the courtroom of the courthouse in Oregon, Mo.

The meeting is for any agricultural producer needing a private pesticide applicator license to be allowed to purchase restricted use pesticides. Two other meetings will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday, March 11, and 7 p.m. Thursday, March 16, both in the courthouse in Oregon.

Those unable to attend will have to watch a video at their local Extension office. For more information contact Wayne Flanary, Regional Agronomist, University of Missouri Extension, at (660) 446-3724.

Owners opt against euthanasia

By Cali Arnold
S267464@nwmissouri.edu

The words that came out of Todd Willis' mouth when his cat, Meow-Meow, strutted into the room and jumped onto his lap said it all:

"She's my baby; she knows it, too."

Meow-Meow, a 14-year-old female feline, has been with the Willis family off and on for four years. The past two years she stayed with the family continuously due to recently developing stomach cancer.

Four years ago a couple east of Maryville asked Willis to take care of Meow-Meow during the winter. When spring came she was sent back to her owners, and the next winter she returned under the Willis' care. It was when Meow-Meow became too sick to eat with the rest of the cats that Willis kept her at his business, "All Things Used," year round.

When Willis asked the owners when they wanted Meow-Meow back their answer was simple.

"They said, 'Nope, Meow's getting too sick and too old to be moving around, so you just hang onto her until she dies,'" he said.

That is what he and his family have been doing since. Willis' four children and Bob, another family cat, spend their time keeping Meow-Meow company while they still can.

Meow-Meow was taken to the veterinarian when she appeared sick. They were told the cat would have an approximate 10 percent chance of surviving surgery to remove the tumor in her stomach. The only other choice was to euthanize Meow-Meow. For Willis, that was not an option.

"If a human had cancer and it was incurable, what would you do? Would you kill the human? No, it's not right," Willis said. "So why kill an animal when it's not right?"

The veterinarian predicted Meow-Meow had a few months to live. That was two years ago. Those two years, however, have not been without pain. Willis said at

times the cat will go through two or three weeks of vomiting, not wanting to eat and not being able to make bowel movements.

This is not the first time Willis has had to make a decision about a sick pet. Recently, one of his dogs died of parvovirus, a sickness that grows rapidly on dividing cells. The virus attacks and kills the cells, causing diarrhea, depression and suppression of white blood cells. Unlike Meow-Meow, the dog only lived with the sickness for a few weeks. As much as Willis hated to see the dog in that state, he felt the same as he does now with his cat.

"I don't want her (Meow) to suffer, but I can't deal with putting her down myself," he said.

Ed Powell, veterinarian at Nodaway Vet Clinic, said decisions like this prove difficult for many reasons.

"Any cancer can go on for awhile," Powell said. "Depending on the body of the cat, they usually just waste away over a certain period of time."

Powell said a cat would be in considerable trouble after two to four years of having cancer, depending on what stage of the disease the animal is in. If caught early, treatment can be used on the tumor, or it can be surgically removed. However, surgically removing a tumor in the stomach is challenging when considering how much to take out. If not caught early, the prognosis is usually fatal.

In the meantime, Willis keeps Meow-Meow and his other cat at the store until the day the cancer takes her life. He said he would rather keep her there, away from his home, for fear of her dying and having one of his children find her.

"If she's going to die she's just going to die, and it will be her time. I'm not going to prolong it, like I'm not going to risk taking it out, but if there was a chance that she'd live, you know, that's still a natural thing, and sometimes you have to just let it go on and take it's course."



PHOTO BY ALEXIS HEJNA / NWMISSOURIAN

MEOW-MEOW snuggles Cassi Morrow, a worker at All Things Used in Maryville. Meow-Meow is 14-years old and has stomach cancer.

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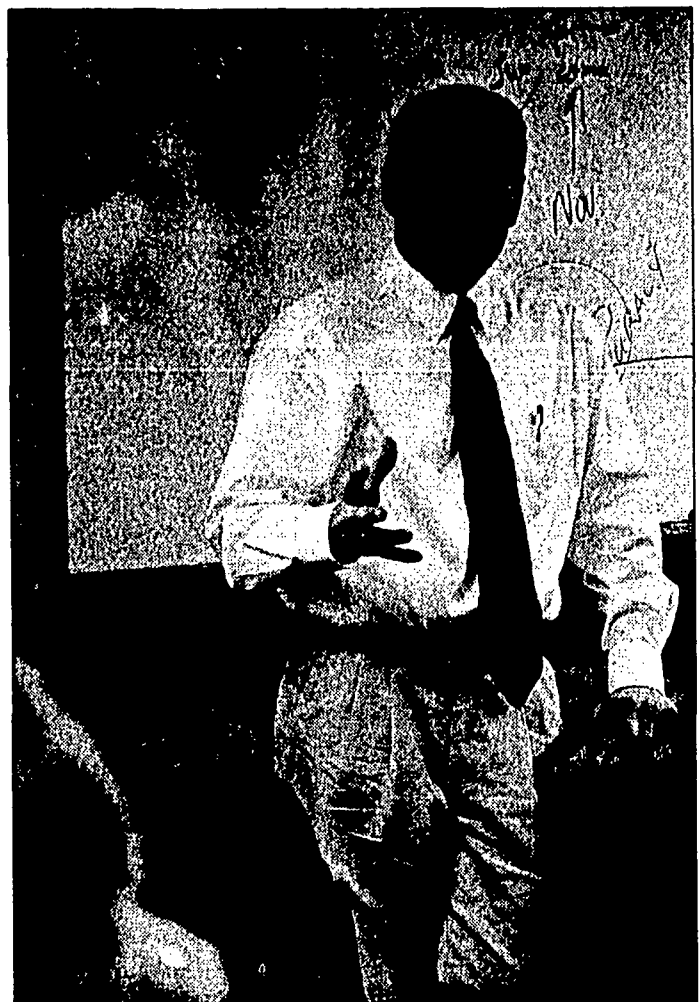
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CONGRESSMAN SAM Graves answers questions last Thursday at the Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Government.

ROADS: Graves pleased with transportation bill

continued from 1A

Route 136."

Kusilek also said the new federal transportation bill has \$61 million dollars coming to Missouri that is not committed. He said MODOT decided the money would be split up, bringing an additional \$2.5 million per year to the northwest Missouri area.

Congressman Sam Graves R-6 also addressed the council and took questions.

Graves said the new transportation bill would increase the amount of money Missouri receives from the Highway Trust Fund.

Missourians pay roughly 18 cents on every gallon of gas to the Highway Trust Fund. Missouri had been receiving 92 cents on every dollar paid into the fund back for MODOT.

In the new bill Graves said that amount would increase to 98 cents on every dollar.

Graves said \$2.4 million is earmarked for Route 136. He also said a great deal of the money is also earmarked for Highway 36 expansion. The funding would allow MODOT to widen Route 36 to four lanes all the way across the state.

Graves believes this will relieve some traffic on other highways and direct more traffic and money towards northwest Missouri.

"It's good news for all of us," Graves said. "It will hopefully pull traffic off of Interstate 70 and hopefully that traffic is going to find its way up to our counties in northwest Missouri."

Kusilek also said MODOT's northwest district's focus has changed. Over the last 10 years he said the area has been focused on expansion projects like Highway 71 from St. Joseph to Maryville.

Kusilek said the focus would now move onto maintaining the roads we do have. He said to this point the district feels that all major expansion in the area is finished.

He also said in addition to work on route 136, 11 bridge decks would be re-decked, and one would be replaced.

Kusilek said re-decking would also save a lot of money in the long run.

"A bridge re-deck is a good bang for our buck," Kusilek said. "It gets a smooth surface on the bridge deck with out spending a lot of money on it. It preserves it and we get some extra life out of it."

CHALLENGES: Dream Grant on first come, first serve basis

continued from 1A

grant's inaugural year, when fewer Missourians knew the grants were available. As a result, Northwest drew the grants from a \$1.5 million budget. The most recent scholarship budget, soon to be submitted to the Board of Regents, sets the line-item budget for the American Dream Grant at \$1.35 million.

Though confident that Northwest will continue to offer the grants to years to come, Morley cautioned not to count on a yearly surplus, as recipient students continue to renew their existing grants and more and more Missourians in need of financial assistance become more informed about the available money. Though Northwest has received an additional \$700,000 in base appropriations since 2003-2004 to make up for past budget cuts and provides additional funds budgeted from its scholarship program, a fair amount of the fund could eventually hinge on private contributions.

For example, Morley said Northwest could potentially initiate continuous funding through an eventual endowment that would continue to earn an annual yield.

"We're not sitting here waiting to find out if we'll get any additional funding," Morley said. "There's only 'X' number

of dollars to make the budget work, and we've allocated 'X' number of dollars for the American Dream Grant.

"It's not an open-ended book. At some point in time, we'll have to say 'We're out of money,' so if you apply after that time, even though you might meet the eligibility criteria, you won't get the grant simply because there's not funds for it. But we haven't faced that yet."

Assistant to President Hubbard Paul Klute said the American Dream Grant has met exactly with the needs Northwest found they most needed to address: those of students from families with lower-end incomes, many of whom turn out to be first-generation college students.

"We were interested in learning about first-generation college students, and how they're affected by the fact that their parents didn't attend college before them," Klute said. "We learned that a lot of these first-generation college students are also low income."

"Since 46 percent of our student body is first-generation, a very good number of those are also lower-income students, so we're actually targeting a large population on campus."

Klute credits diffusion through word-of-mouth with the rise in interest in the American Dream Grant program. He said

the success snowballed once the initial crop of recipients spread the word to their fellow students about a new option in paying for college.

Morley recalled meeting the parents of a student who, without an American Dream Grant, could not have afforded to attend Northwest.

"I remember one mother who came up to me, and they'd gotten their award letter just before SOAR," Morley said. "Her story was that she and her husband were about to tell their daughter 'Sorry, you'll have to stay at home and go to a community college because we can't afford for you to go off to school.'"

"This made it possible for her to start out where she wanted to go."

Between Northwest's conversion this spring to an "online-accept" system of aid verification and the continued innovations of the scholarship committee, Northwest continues a commitment to finding new ways to make attending college more accessible and affordable to more Missourians.

"We want to continue to look at refining the eligibility requirements to meet the needs of the neediest students," Morley said. "We'll probably need to make some adjustments in the future to our initial criteria. It's something we're working on right now."

BRAZIL: Four scientists share foreign experience with students

continued from 1A

with flight delays and a re-directed flight to São Paulo, but eventually started their 10-day trip in Manaus, Roraima.

The primary language of Roraima is Portuguese, so the group worked with translators throughout the trip. At first they struggled with the language barrier.

"They (the university members) had a little bit better English skills than they let on at first," Jones said. "Once we developed a little bit of a comfort level with them, then they were more comfortable using their English."

The group said that the biggest misconception of the area is that it is full of rain forests, which is not the case.

"I always explain it looks like a western Nebraska or eastern Colorado but with palm trees, and not very many of them," Patton said.

Jones said "slash and burn" farming is not taking place in this particular region but is actually further south.

"They are not going in and ripping out rain forest to make room for fields," Jones said. "Though, the day we spent on the Amazon River you could see plumes of smoke on the horizon. At least I assume that's where it was coming from."

Currently some of the undeveloped land is being homesteaded out to farmers, and much of it is going to foreign investment groups such as Good View LLC, which has ties to farmers and investors in both Iowa and Missouri.

"What we were really seeing was described to us as pioneers and I think that was a good word," Zweifel said. "You are looking at people who are coming into an area that is completely undeveloped."

Zweifel and Jones said that the concept of a season is different in Brazil, and because of the climate difference, soybeans can be more productive.

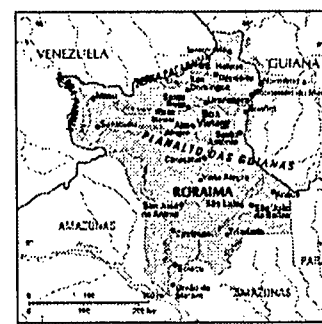
"Of course around the equator they have 12-hour days," Jones said. "So if they are irrigating ground they can just about have year-round production; they can have crops in different stages of production about any time of the year."

One issue Roraima has is a major lack of local infrastructure.

Zweifel said the farmers had the machinery but no local suppliers to go to for parts. The area also suffers from a lack of local elevators and live pesticide and fertilizer dealers.

"We traveled a road that was fairly modern except that where in the United States you would be going 70 (mph), there

Where is Roraima?



Why did they go?

They went to tour corporate soybean operations and to meet with local farmers to discuss crops, soils and various agronomic practices.

Who did they partner with? Good View LLC, a U.S.-based Brazilian agricultural investment corporation.

Why Brazil?

Brazil is currently the second leading producer and exporter of soybeans.

you probably would be going 50, because at some point you are going to have to dodge a pothole," Zweifel said.

The group said Brazil has made a commitment to being a "green" country. At one of the hotels they stayed at, the plastic door key was also used as a switch inside the room to activate lights, air-conditioning and all other electrical outlets.

"They do not have straight gasoline there," Jones said. "All of their fuel is either ethanol, straight alcohol or a diesel which I'm assuming is a bio-diesel."

Overall, Jones said the trip was a learning experience and wants to use the information gathered to help the students understand the global agricultural economy better.

"I just wanted to get a feel of what was going on down there...because

Brazil has surpassed the United States in some of their production," Jones said. "In the global economy we are in, you have to be aware of what other people are doing."

BLUNT: Sale will be complete by end of legislative session

"I'm not convinced that debt relief in the long term you get the same economic impact."

A 2004 study by the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center found the state's average income level was at almost \$35,000 per year compared to a life sciences average wage of \$41,500.

Blunt also does not believe the lawsuit filed two weeks ago by Attorney General Jay Nixon against MOHELA for violating

sunshine laws would stop the sale either. Blunt said Nixon, who has openly said he will make a run at the governor's office in 2008, is just using the move for political posturing.

"I think it's a hindrance and it slows this down," Blunt said. "The real issue is how were going to spread the funds out. This just road blocks to stop something that has tremendous potential for the state."

House Senior Budget Com-

mittee member Wes Shoemyer D-9 believes the legislature needs to slow down and take a look at all facts before moving forward with anything.

Shoemyer believes legislation must take place before any money can be allocated for capital improvements. Shoemyer said the bottom line is affordable education for everyone to create a better society to live in.

"I'm excited about some of the possibilities with capital improvement projects, but at the same time I'm a farmer," Shoemyer said. "I would love to drive a new shiny tractor and I'd love to have a new combine every year but there are things I have found that are important and that's the seeds."

"We're taking some of the seed money and were putting it into shiny marbles. I want to make sure that our commitment is access to affordable higher

education. I want to make sure we're asking the tough questions about access to higher education."

Shoemyer also said being a farmer he is very supportive of money going to the life sciences. He is also in favor of new technology.

Again Shoemyer is concerned about moving to fast and not letting the applicators catch up.

"New science doesn't do us any good if we don't apply it," Shoemyer said. "We have concentrated the monies for life sciences on the development of new technologies that we have forgotten the fundamental tenants. We're not investing any of those dollars into those things that would move these new technologies into the applied world. At some point we need to be getting ready for the application today."

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Softball squad shuts out Rockhurst

By Meagan Murphy
S271010@nwmissouri.edu

Northwest softball should have high hopes about this spring's season after winning four out of five games at their season opener this weekend in the Evangel tournament.

"I was really pleased with how well we played this weekend, I think we came away with some really good team wins, it's always great to start off the season 4-1," head softball coach Susan Anderson said.

The games started on Friday against Rockhurst, Bacone and Bellevue. The girls gained their first win and shutout of the season against Rockhurst in a very low scoring game of 1-0, followed by the Bacone victory with a score of 5-2. In the game against Bellevue, freshman pitcher Nicole Krueger pitched a no-hitter, the first for Northwest since 2000, which enabled the Bearcats to win 11-0.

On Saturday, the Cats showed up to win in the game against Central Missouri State University. Not only did the Bearcats win 10-5, but they also set a new school record.

Before this weekend, the school record for the number of homeruns in a game was three, but the Bearcats hammered out the new record of five homeruns against CMSU.

The last game on Saturday proved to be more of a challenge for the Bearcats as they took an 8-0 loss to Oklahoma City.

This weekend was the first opportunity that the coaches had to look at what can be improved on in game play.

Despite the Cats scoring over 10 runs in one game and 11 in another, Anderson still believes they could be more selective at the plate. Anderson also believes their defense could be improved and the number of errors could be reduced.

Katy John and Ashley Pride are both seniors this year, in fact they are the only seniors, and they are both infielders. Pride bats an impressive .643, which currently places her

see BEARCATS on 2B

NEWSRELEASE

'Cats falter at West Florida

Though the weather in western Florida is ideal the Northwest baseball team hasn't had a chance to shine in the sun.

Northwest dropped three of their first four games in Pensacola, Fla. to defending national champion West Florida.

No. 25 West Florida had a demanding six-run lead in the first game Sunday.

West Florida led by six heading into the top of the ninth inning.

The Bearcats came up one run short, falling 10-9. Pitcher Matt Coons received the loss for Northwest.

On Tuesday Northwest split a doubleheader with West Florida.

The Bearcats won the first game 12-6. Senior John White was a triple away from the cycle and Northwest pitcher Brian Lamer earned the victory.

The Bearcats then dropped the second game 1-0.

Starting pitcher Travis Fouts gave up one run in the first but it was enough for West Florida as Fouts received the loss.

Wednesday West Florida scored five runs in the third and won 5-2. Alex Budden received the loss for Northwest.

Northwest (1-3) now plays at 5 p.m. Tuesday against the University of Montavella in Montavella, Ala.

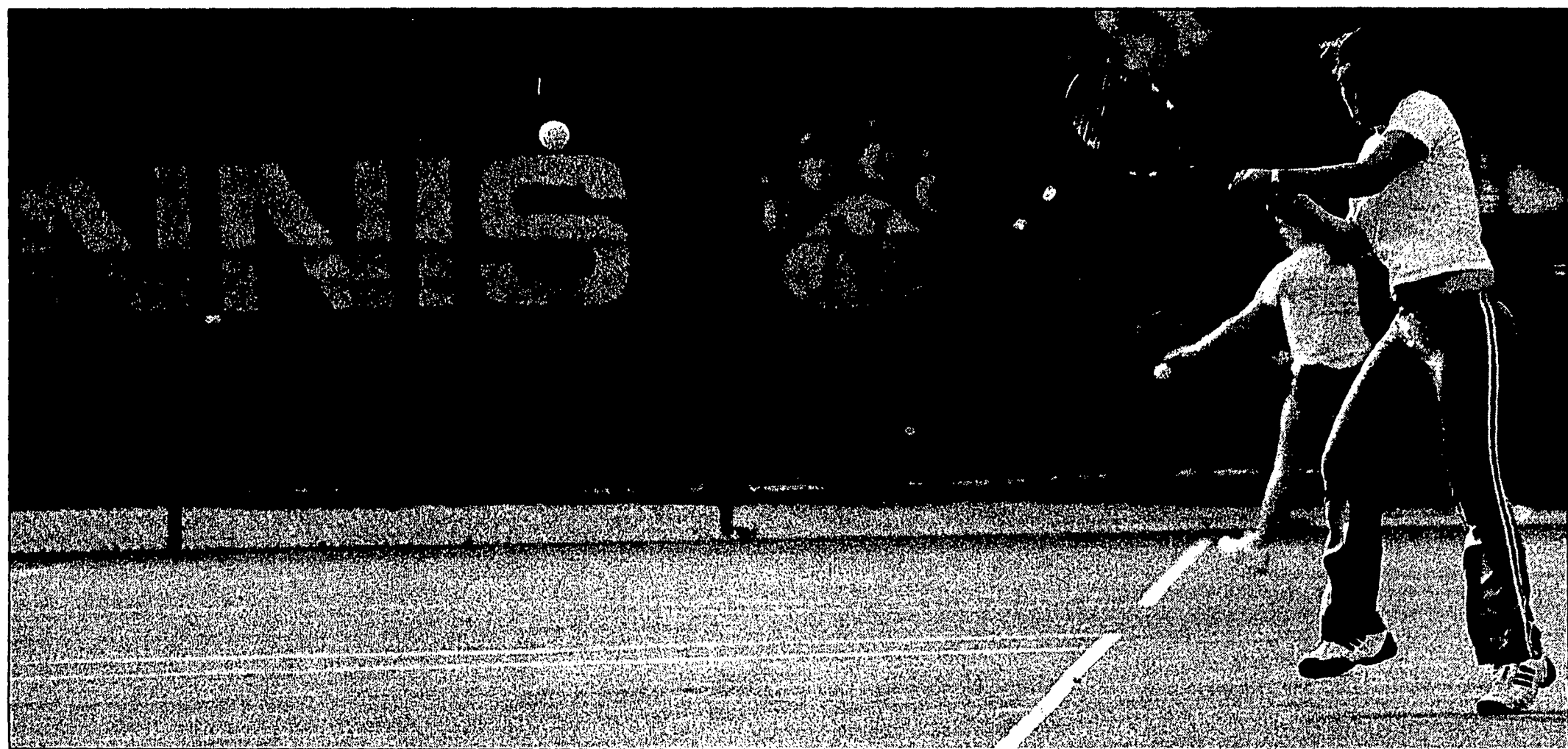


PHOTO BY MIKE DYE / NWMISSOURIAN

ERICA ISAZA crushes the ball during tennis practice on Grube Courts on campus. This is Isaza's second year on the Northwest team receiving an All-American Honor at Tyler Junior College in Tyler, Texas.

Returning Talent

Returning players give tennis team season edge

By Sam Robinson
S244753@nwmissouri.edu

The Northwest tennis teams prepare to take the court this season with high expectations as both the mens and womens squads are loaded with experience.

Head coach Mark Rosewell enters his 23rd season at Northwest with a team he feels is full of veterans that are very familiar with MIAA tennis

and are ready to compete for a conference title.

"Like in any other sport you get more comfortable, you get confidence going. They know who they're playing and the league and the regional teams and what the important matches are. That's a big factor," Rosewell said.

The men's team is coming off a second-place finish at the MIAA conference championships in 2005 and is ranked first in the North Central Region. Junior Pablo Acebedo led the team with 14 singles victories and earned second team All-MIAA honors at his No. 2 singles slot. The Intercollegiate Tennis Association's preseason rankings list Acebedo at third in singles in the region.

Also returning this season is seventh ranked sophomore Lucas Ariboni, who comes off a first team All-Conference season at the No. 4 singles position. Junior Chris Smith sits eighth on the ITA's region list and comes off a season where he was 5-0 at No. 1 doubles in MIAA conference play. Zach Keith is the lone senior and will see action at the No. 6 slot.

Keith also set some higher goals for his teammates to go after.

"Right now we're ranked No. 1 in the region. As far as expectations, it wouldn't be too much of a stretch to say we'd like to win the conference tournament, the regional tournament and qualify

for nationals," Keith said.

The womens team also has some quality athletes returning to the court. They are ranked second in the region and have a player in senior Gena Lindsay who was named MIAA Player of the Year last season and was a unanimous first team selection at No. 1 singles and doubles.

"Gena Lindsay is our No. 1 player. She's the regional champion the past two years in singles and doubles both," Rosewell said.

Lindsay and doubles partner, senior Erica Ramirez, currently own the region's top spot.

see TENNIS on 2B



PHOTO BY KELLIE WHITE / NWMISSOURIAN

JUNIOR E.J. FALKNER practices runs up the steps of Bearcat Stadium Tuesday during track practice. E.J. is one of four members of the mens' track team to make it into the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships in Boston.

Track team has best MIAA finish in 4 years

By Brett Barger
s203501@nwmissouri.edu

The Northwest track and field team left the MIAA Indoor Track and Field Championships with some surprising finishes and not so surprising finishes Friday and Saturday.

The men, picked No. 5 in the MIAA preseason poll, finished in second place, behind Central Missouri State University. It is the squad's highest finish since 2002.

"We probably didn't win anymore medals then we did last year, but five of them were first place and that's pretty good," said Northwest mens' track coach Richard Alsop. "Everyone competed hard and everyone there competed tough."

Four Bearcats brought home conference championships.

Junior E.J. Falkner finished first in the 400-meter dash with a time of 48.42 seconds, breaking the school record—Falkner's second consecutive conference championship.

Junior Eric Isley came in first

in the 800-meter dash with a time of 1:52.48. Isley finished three seconds ahead of the second place runner to claim his first individual conference championship.

He won a conference championship as a member of the 4x800 meter relay team in 2004.

Freshman Daniel Urum-Ike finished on top, setting a season high in the triple jump with a jump of 46' 7 1/2". This is Urum-Ike's first championship. He also finished first in the MIAA performance rankings, leading by 3-feet.

Junior Bayo Adio won his first conference championship in the high jump with a jump of 6' 9 3/4". This is Adio's first year at Northwest and he finished first in the MIAA performance rankings.

"I went from fifth on the MIAA list to first," Adio said. "I expected to be successful and improving every meet led to that success."

Freshman Kendall Wright took first place in the long jump with a jump of 6.9 meters. This

is Wright's first conference championship.

Other notables include senior Travis MacKenzie, who placed second in the weight throw with a throw of 59' 10 1/4", breaking the school record.

The regular season is over for the squad, but four 'Cats will compete March 10 through 11 in the NCAA Division II Indoor Championships in Boston.

Falkner will compete in the 200-meter dash and the 400-meter dash, Isley in the 800-meter run, Adio in the high jump and MacKenzie in the weight throw.

Despite being picked No. 5 in the preseason polls, Alsop was not surprised by his team's performance.

"I thought if everything went perfect that we might challenge Central," Alsop said. "It went awfully well, but they just had a few more horses than we did."

On the women's side, the team finished sixth out of seven teams.

Northwest womens' track coach Scott Lorek said that despite

the sixth-place finish, the season went well and that the future is bright.

"We have so many other things that we are building and growing," Lorek said. "When I actually look at it, there's very little I can be sad about. I think we competed well and I think we're moving up."

Senior Alisha Samuel finished third in the 60-meter dash with a time of 7.74.

Sophomore Johanna Avilez finished fourth in the 60-meter hurdles, breaking the school record with a time of 9.29 seconds.

The distance medley team composed of freshman Anna O'Brien, sophomore Stacie Trullin, senior Dia McKee and junior Heather Brokaw finished third with a time of 12:44.21.

Freshman Tierney Eaton finished fourth in the high jump with a jump of 5' 5 3/4" in her first conference meet.

Eaton, who was ranked 19th,

see TRACK on 3B

Spring training equals some hope for Royals

There are three questions that come to mind as the Royals begin spring training in Surprise, Ariz.

How effective will the free agent signings be? Is Emil Brown's performance last season a fluke? Just how many cheeseburgers did Runelvys Hernandez have over the offseason?

If you're a Royals fan, you will know that these questions do not begin to cover the scope of questions heading into the season, but in the interest of saving time, we'll stick to the immediate questions.

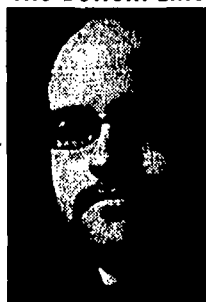
The Royals had a busy offseason, acquiring some pitching and defensive help.

Lets start with former St. Louis Cardinal Mark Grudzielanek, whose .287 career average and base-stealing ability makes him the best pickup for the Royals. Grudzielanek also brings a career .974 fielding percentage, which will improve the Royals defense that led the majors with 125 errors.

The addition of former Minnesota Twin and New York Met first baseman Doug Mientkiewicz and his gold glove will take pressure off third baseman Mark Teahen and shortstop Angel Berroa, whose off-target throws last season could not be hauled in by Mike Sweeney and Matt Stairs, who split time last season.

Along with defense, the Royals picked up a power hitter in former St. Louis Cardinal Reggie Sanders. Sanders comes off a hip injury last season, when he was with the Cardinals. Lingering injuries will be a

The Bottom Line



Brett Berger
Chief Reporter

question mark as he prepares for his 16th major league season.

He comes off a broken right leg after a July collision with center fielder Jim Edmonds. On top of that, he strained his lower back in

Game Two of the National League Championship series against the Houston Astros.

Sanders is the most questionable among the signees. He is 38-years-old and is better suited to be on a team where he is not depended on for run support. With the Royals, he is under more pressure to produce.

Overall, the Royals did as much as they can with the money they have. The defense will be improved and keep the Royals in games, that they might otherwise had been out of last season.

The pitching additions, however, are what is going to keep the Royals sitting home in October.

Mark Redman has a career 53-66 record as a pitcher with an ERA of 4.47. On clubs where he had better run support, his ERA was over 4.00. His best year was in 2003 when he went 14-9 with a 3.59 ERA for the World Champion Florida Marlins.

Joe Mays, who pitched for the rival Minnesota Twins, had season ending right elbow surgery in 2004 and was clearly not healthy in 2005, going 6-10 with a 5.65 ERA.

The pitcher with the most potential is Scott Elarton.

The 6' 7" right-hander is 29-years-old. He pitched for the Colorado Rockies, where no pitcher will ever experi-

ence sustained success, and had been with the Cleveland Indians the last two years. He is a pitcher who is looking for that right situation and Kansas City is it. He is reunited with his old manager Buddy Bell and his pitching coach Bob McClure, who were in Colorado.

The current players have a lot to prove. We will not know how Brown will perform until the Royals season ends in mid-July (yes, I said mid-July).

Brown had a breakout season in 2005 with 17 HR and 86 RBI. His previous highs were 3 HR and 16 RBI in 2000 with the Pittsburgh Pirates. The signing of Sanders will help take pressure off Brown and Sweeney, who accounted for 24 percent of the Royals run production last season.

Zack Greinke who had the worst season in Royals history has a lot to prove this season.

He was drafted with the assumption that he will become an ace on this staff and the future of the franchise.

He proved to be just the opposite in 2005, going 5-17 with a 5.80 ERA. This season Greinke must drop his love affair with the fastball and stick to a three-pitch diet that will make him more effective.

The biggest disappointment is Runelvys Hernandez.

He reported to spring training, looming near 270 lbs. Hernandez was 250 lbs last season where he was largely ineffective in innings and quality starts going 8-14 with a 5.52 ERA.

Hernandez has to realize there are only two pitchers in the league, who are overweight and still effective pitchers and he is no Bartolo Colon or Livan Hernandez, put

So please Runelvys, get the fork down man!

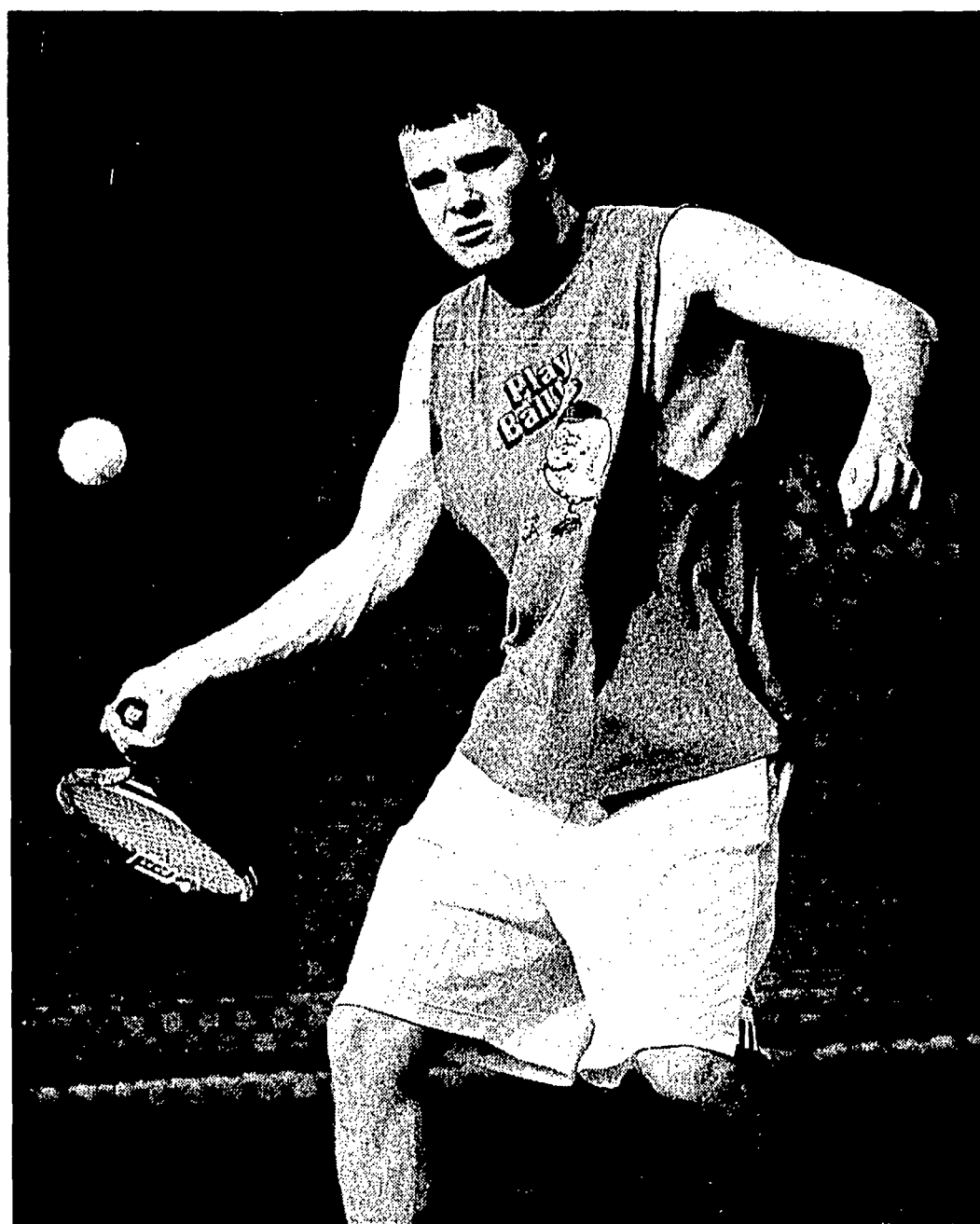


PHOTO BY MIKE DYE / NWMISSOURIAN

ZACH KEITH gets ready to return a shot during practice on Tuesday at the Grubes tennis court.

TENNIS: Teams get season rolling

continue from 1B

Another player looking to make a big impact this spring is sophomore Carolina Amanda Hardie, who holds the fourth spot in the ITA regional rankings. Junior doubles player

Amanda Hardie feels this is the best team she has been on during her tenure here.

"I'm most excited about the depth of our team. This is my third year playing and this year we have the deepest team one to six," Hardie said. "I think we

should easily make it to nationals this year."

Last week the men's team defeated No. 4 junior college squad Barton County 7-2 in an exhibition match. They return to the court Friday against Winona State (Minn.) in Topeka.

BEARCATS: Softball heads to Western

continued from 1B

in the leading position on the team, Pride also came away with three homeruns and six RBIs over the weekend.

"I think I just put a lot of pressure on myself, being that its our last year, really wanting to go

all out...and didn't perform as well as I wanted to," John said.

Next week the Cats will be competing in the tournament at Missouri Western where they will face some tough in-region competition.

Conference opponent Emporia State the No. 12 ranked team in the nation will headline the list.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Assistant volleyball coach resigns for personal reasons

Andrea King resigned Tuesday from her duties as assistant volleyball coach according to a press release issued Tuesday.

King, who will remain at Northwest until May 31, is leaving due to personal reasons. King will be getting married in the Summer 2007 and plans to return to her home state of Indiana.

"I wish she was staying - we have very similar coaching philosophies," head coach Anna Tool said in a release. "She has been a huge asset in recruiting. I wish her the best in her future plans, both on a personal and career level."

King helped guide the Bearcats to a 15-19 record in 2005. Two student-athletes

were named to the All-MIAA Honorable Mention and five Bearcats were selected to the Commissioners Academic honor roll.

King graduated from Butler in 2002 with a degree in elementary education and received her master's degree in middle school science endorsement from the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis in May 2005.

Former football player takes promotion job

The Northwest athletic department Tuesday hired Morris White as their new Director of Athletic Marketing, Promotions and Licensing, according to a press release issued Tuesday.

"I am extremely excited about this opportunity," White

said in the release. "I expect to build on what has been established and can't wait for my duties."

White replaces Kristen Konoske, who will officially resign her position on March 31, to become the Director of Marketing for the Omaha Country Club in Omaha, Neb.

White is a former wide receiver at Northwest, who played for the Bearcats from 2001-2004. In his senior season as team captain, he helped lead Northwest to a No. 3 national ranking and a berth in the NCAA Division II Quarterfinals.

White holds a bachelor's degree in psychology with a double minor in speech communication and health education from Northwest.

TRACK: Five head to national meet

continued from 1B

finished fourth in the high jump with a jump of 5' 5 3/4" in her first conference meet.

Eaton, who was ranked

19th nationally did not qualify for the national meet.

"It's a great thing to be on the national list, because that's the first step," Lorek said. "I think there's great things in

store for Tierney."

Samuel is the only representative from the women's squad and she will compete March 10 through 11 in the Division II Indoor Championships.

Investigation on Snyder continues

By Alan Scher Zagier
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP)—Former Missouri basketball coach Quin Snyder was first encouraged by athletics director Mike Alden to consider a midseason res-

ignation more than a year ago, according to notes from Chancellor Brady Deaton's recently concluded internal investigation.

And before what would become Snyder's final season at Missouri, Deaton and Alden in October rejected

the coach's request for a public show of support and a commitment to honor his contract through 2008, Deaton's Feb. 21 notes show.

The Associated Press obtained the notes Wednesday through a public records request.

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'Hounds' season ends in first district round

By Cali Arnold
S267464@nwmissouri.edu

The Maryville girls' basketball team's season came to a close early on Monday as they lost in the first round of Class 3, District 16 play to Hamilton, by a score of 60-39.

The Spoofhounds held the lead after one quarter of play, but a man-to-man full court press and good shooting from Hamilton cost Maryville the game.

"We eventually wore down," Maryville coach Adam Willard said. "We suffered from the same problems as we did the rest of the season."

Willard said that the lack of a true point guard hurt the 'Hounds again in their final game.

"If we could have taken care of the ball we could have won," he said.

Maryville ended the season with a 4-21 overall record and finished 0-7 in the Midland Empire Conference.

Although the record wasn't as good as the team would have liked, lone senior Kim Wolfer enjoyed her final season as a 'Hound.

"It was fun being the only senior," Wolfer said. "All the girls had good relationships. They showed me respect and we were all friends."

Wolfer averaged 15 points and 8 rebounds on

the season, leading the team in both categories.

Juniors Bobbi Austin and Jaclyn Guess were second in their respective categories.

Willard is looking to them, as well as the rest of this season's young team, to work this summer to improve their game.

"I expect a lot out of all the juniors (next season)," Willard said. "Jaclyn will be looked to for her quickness and speed. I look for her to produce just as much if not more than what Kim (Wolfer) did for us this year."

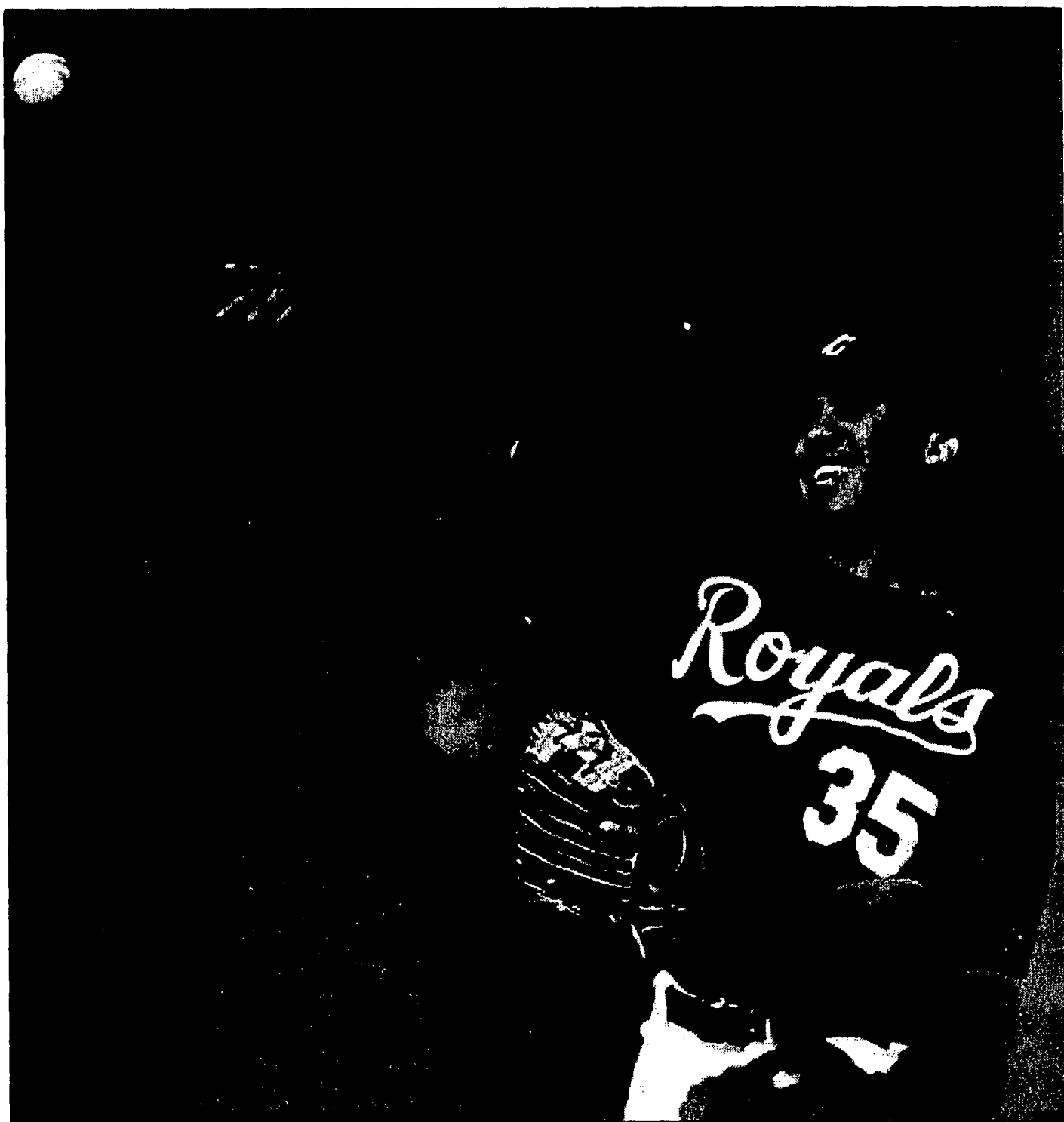
One of the worries that will stay with Willard is the absence of a point guard. While the team will now have more experience going into next season, he knows it will be a challenge to find someone for the position.

Players will spend the summer lifting, playing weekly in a league and attending team camps.

Willard said his guards will have to make a commitment this summer by coming to the gym and doing lots of dribbling and ball-handling drills.

Willard likes to see his athletes play three sports, but knows that with students' busy schedules it becomes less likely to happen.

"Society takes away from athletics," he said. "There are too many easy things kids can do these days."



THE ROYALS EMIL BROWN smiles as he warms up his arm in Spring Training in Surprise, Ariz. Brown is projected to win a starting spot in the outfield this season.

Maryville gets fifth win, moves on in districts

The Maryville Spoofhound boys' basketball team picked up their fifth win of the season on Tuesday night knocking off the No. 4 seed Plattsburg Tigers (17-9), 48-46

in overtime of their first round game in the Class 3 District 16 tournament.

Andy Walter led Maryville with 16 points and hit five three-pointers.

Maryville (5-20) will face off against Cameron (22-3) today at 6 p.m. The No. 1 seeded Dragons defeated Trenton 61-25 in their first round game Tuesday night.

Ankiel sidelined for two weeks

By Chris Tunno
Associated Press

JUPITER, Fla. (AP)—Rick Ankiel, the former pitching phenom trying to make the St. Louis Cardinals as an outfielder, will miss 10 to 14 days of spring training after injuring his left knee, the team said Tuesday.

Ankiel suffered the injury during an intrasquad game Monday. He had been scheduled to start Tuesday's exhibition game in center field against Florida Atlantic University.

An MRI on Tuesday revealed a strained patella tendon.

"Yesterday he felt a little twinge in his knee," assistant team physician Robert Shively said. "It was pretty well localized to the bottom end

of his kneecap, in the patellar tendon."

"We're going to reevaluate him in 10 days, two weeks, and hopefully he'll be ready to go by then," Shively said.

Ankiel, 26, had been impressive in spring workouts. He batted a combined .259 with 21 home runs and 75 RBIs in 85 games split between Double-A Springfield and Class A Quad Cities last season.

Ankiel was considered a can't-miss left-hander when the Cardinals chose him in the second round out of high school in the 1997 draft. His pitching career was derailed in the 2000 playoffs when he threw nine wild pitches in four postseason innings, and he never recovered.

He was always considered a very good hitter for

a pitcher, with a .207 career average and two homers, a double, a triple and nine RBIs in 87 major league at-bats.

In Tuesday's game, the exhibition opener for St. Louis, Scott Spiezio's pinch-hit RBI double broke a 1-1 tie in the eighth, and Reid Gorecki followed with a three-run homer. It was part of a six-run inning as the Cardinals rallied to beat Florida Atlantic 6-1.

Florida Atlantic's lone run came in the seventh when Cardinals first baseman Chris Duncan missed a throw from pitcher Rich Rundles. None of the Cardinals' anticipated starters played in the game.

The Cardinals have no game Wednesday and play their first spring training game against a major league team Thursday, hosting the New York Mets.

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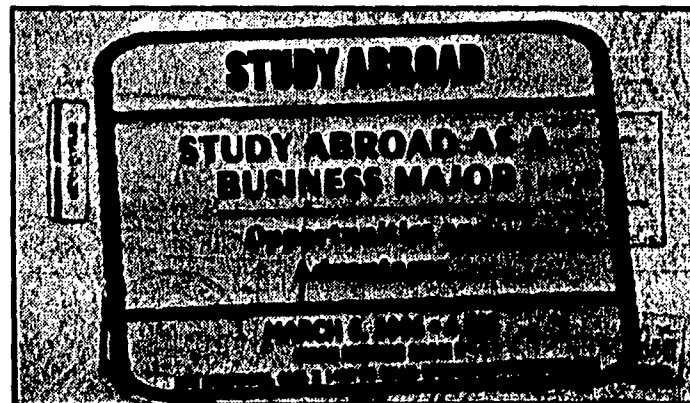
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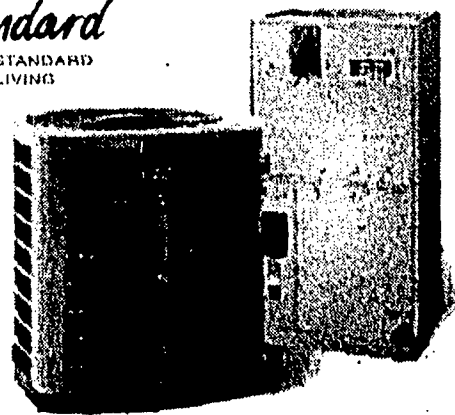
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Today
Bust out the capris



59 / 26

Friday
Go to MIAA



54 / 38

Saturday
Yuck, stay indoors



48 / 34

Sunday
Sleep in late



52 / 25

Monday
Skip today, why not?



51 / 27

Tuesday
Buy an umbrella



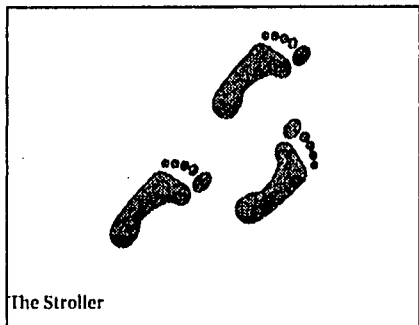
58 / 29

Wednesday
Hump day



54 / 36

Your Man gives two-ply sermon



Your Man was walking through the Union Tuesday afternoon when he heard someone trying to convince their friend to go to the Drag Show Friday evening.

She declined saying, "You don't know my parents."

This struck Your Man as worrisome. We're all raised based on a moral system largely instilled in us by our parents, but we're not limited to that system.

College is a time for students to expand their boundaries, step out of their comfort zones and see a few guys in drag.

Our parents shouldn't stop us from learning about new things.

Your Man has no intention to go to the annual Drag Show this weekend, but that's his personal decision.

He could care less if his parents didn't want him to go to the show.

It seems everywhere he turns, Your Man sees people limiting themselves because they don't want to lose face or disappoint their friends or family. Most of the time it's stupid stuff too.

They need to take a lesson from the drunk girl in the bar. You know, the one who licks your face because you look salty.

At the end of the night, she might be puking her beer money all over her porcelain shrine, but almost always someone is holding her hair.

She spent her evening losing face and dignity, but she had a pretty good time too.

She's the type who asks if a drag queen tapes back. She's taken it too far.

Her parents probably don't

talk to her anymore, at least they wouldn't if they knew how she acted.

The important part is that she didn't let she didn't let anyone else stop her from doing something she wanted to do.

True, her parents probably never specifically told her not to lick someone's face at a bar, but they probably taught her basic etiquette. She wanted to lick your face, so she did.

If you want to go to the drag show, go to the drag show. Maybe you'll see your parents there too.

In other news, Your Man read last week that a 56-year-old man killed his roommate because they didn't have any toilet paper. And by killed, Your Man means he attacked the man with a sledgehammer and a claw hammer.

The man was beaten so badly he had to be identified by his fingerprints.

Whoa.
Your Man is going to make sure he keeps his apartment

stocked with bathroom necessities lest he end up in the same predicament.

Of course, Your Man hopes that his roommates aren't so quick to grab the hardware.

This story worries Your Man. Why kill someone over toilet paper?

Last time he checked, Your Man was pretty sure you could purchase toilet paper just about anywhere for very little money.

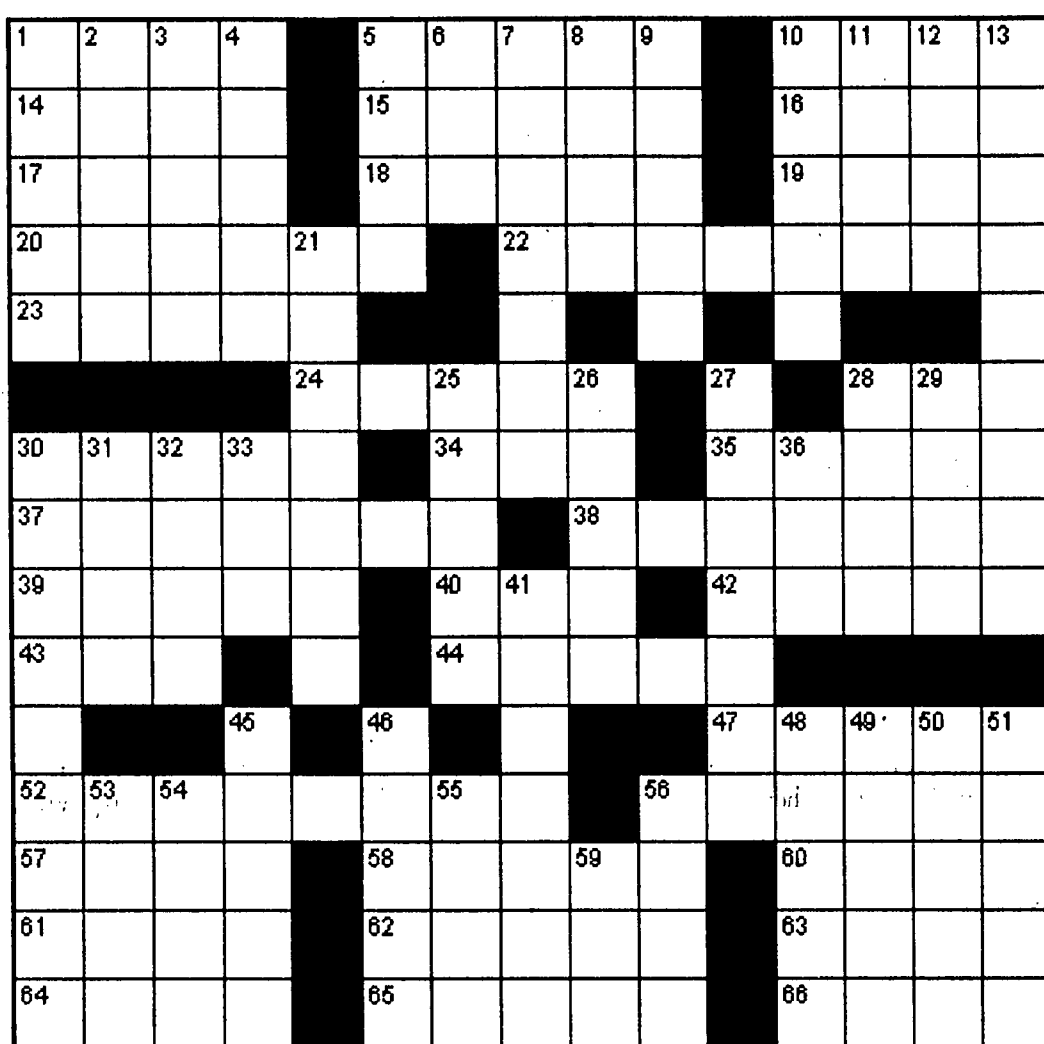
So instead of grabbing a couple hammers, wouldn't it have been just as easy to run to the store and buy a 36-roll package for a few bucks?

Then the man could have just toilet papered his roommate's lawn in the middle of the night.

He'd realize much later that he TP'ed his own house as well, but then he'd just hammer himself.

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of *The Northwest Missourian*.

PUZZLEMANIA



Across

1. Money for the needy
5. Woman about to wed
10. Ecclesiastic
14. Ruminant
15. Mature
16. Chapter head
17. Keen on
18. Factor
19. Right-angled extensions
20. Adjacent
22. Slavic (of writing)

Down

23. Filth
24. Synchronization
28. Soldiers
30. Bunch
34. Cable channel
35. Father of Jacob
37. Fish extract (4,3)
38. Earmark
39. Walk stealthily
40. Hat
42. Performed
43. Share of the profits

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



44. Craftily
47. Accumulate
52. Pronounce as a nasal sound
56. Hooded pullover jacket
57. Pinches
58. Israeli dry region
60. Beautiful and graceful girl
61. Cut
62. Serious
63. Engraved
64. Soures
65. Sun-like
66. Undo cancellation
12. Island east of Java
13. Settled
21. Reserved (Archaic)
25. Cancels
26. Tough
27. Philippine native
28. Market
29. Roof edge
30. Medical inspection device
31. Remarkable thing
32. Group of persons regarded as an entity
33. Valet
36. Moderately dry
41. Against the rules
45. Spars
46. High-pitched metallic sounds
48. Blues
49. Are not
50. Sergeant
51. Circumvent
53. Assistant
54. Saliva
55. Nothing
56. Assert
59. Excursion from a vehicle

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EA Sports lowers expectations

By Jesse Murphy
S222201@nwmissouri.edu

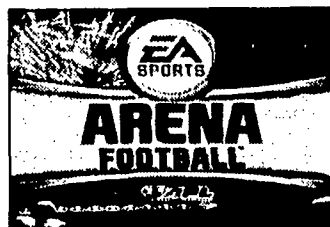
As exciting as Arena Football may be, EA Sports' new Arena Football game fails to live up to its namesake.

To those of you who have never heard of the Arena Football League (AFL), it's played like football, only the field is half the size and surrounded by a padded wall. The goal posts are 9 feet wide and 15 feet off the ground. The field and the rules make for a very exciting game, and it puts the fans in the middle of the action.

Two minutes into the first quarter of the first game I played, I found myself upset that I spent \$8.60 to rent this game for a week. As a habitual player of other EA sports games such as Madden NFL and NCAA football, I had a really hard time with the new controller scheme.

Then we come to the rules. Though I have watched the AFL, I'm not too familiar with them. So when a flag was thrown for a linebacker "leaving the box," I was confused. I read the user's manual, which is against the code of men, and discovered that there are many rules I was unaware of.

For instance, only one linebacker can rush the quarterback on either side of the center. The other has to stay in this 5-yard wide "box," unless the QB runs outside the hash marks in the middle of the field. The fullback can only run inside the tackles (another flag). If a receiver gets pushed over the wall before he plants his feet, the pass is



incomplete.

Now, as I am getting beat by the computer, also against the code of men, I finally somewhat understand the game, and the controls get easier. The skinny: Running doesn't work for the most part. You can send one receiver in forward motion before you start the play, so he's got momentum. Quick passes set you up for the long bomb. This game is fast-paced and high scoring. Football fans, it feels like you are playing the two-minute drill for a whole game.

The soundtrack is more new age rock/metal, I'm not sure what they call it, but the only band I recognized is Korn. You can listen to music and not the announcers while playing a game, which is great. You start out with only six songs and have to unlock the ability to listen to more. I don't know how long that takes, but the six get old fast.

I would highly suggest renting the game before you go buy it. The game can be played on X-Box Live (or equivalent), which I'm sure is fun if you can afford it. Other than playing live games, all you have is the season mode. The extras have to be unlocked, and they're all just trailers for other games. All in all, Arena Football is an intense game, but I'll stick to Madden.

'Just Like Heaven' floats above the average romantic comedy

By Whitney Bocquin
S257076@nwmissouri.edu



Just Like Heaven finally breaks the barrier of the predictable romantic comedy. Directed by Mark Waters (*Mean Girls*, *Freaky Friday*) this movie is entertaining and light hearted.

Set in the city, Reese Witherspoon (*Legally Blonde*, *Walk the Line*) plays Dr. Elizabeth Masterson who has no time to take care of herself, let alone look for love. On her way to a blind date set up by her sister, she is in a terrible car accident leaving her in a coma.

Her sister, forced to sublease Elizabeth's apartment while she is in the hospital, finds a candidate in David Abbot. Played by Mark Ruffalo (*Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, *Rumor Has It*), Abbot is a lonely architect who quickly moves into the high-end residence.

Elizabeth, not knowing she is in a coma, haunts David believing he has invaded her apartment. Thinking he is crazy, David does everything

he can to get rid of the spirit.

Elizabeth, determined to know the truth about what happened to her, asks for David's help. Their stubbornness and constant bickering brings them closer until David realizes he is in love with the spirit and must bring her out of her coma. With David's help, Elizabeth is able to regain consciousness and find love.

Witherspoon and Ruffalo work well together by adding comedy and even a little action along with the love story.

Not a big fan of romantic comedies, I went to this movie thinking it would be a repeat of the usual, the "boy meets girl, boy falls in love with girl" saga. Instead it proved to have a more developed and interesting plotline than what is used way too often.

Just Like Heaven is a movie you can only sit through once. However, I would recommend it to those who are looking to see something a little bit different in a romantic comedy.



Editor's Flick Picks

Each week a *Missourian* staffer will entice you to broaden your viewing pleasure with their favorites. This week is Andrew Glover, chief reporter.

Little Big League

Humorous baseball movies are pretty easy to come by, but *Little Big League* takes the cake in my mind.

First of all, the team is the Minnesota Twins, which to the contrary to many readers in this area is my favorite team. The humor isn't over fabricated and is more of an innocent humor which makes the story seem a little more literal.

This film is filled with relatively unknown actors, led by Luke Edwards who plays Billy Haywood, who takes over ownership and later management of the Minnesota Twins. With a bunch of talented players who sell themselves short, Haywood shows them its supposed to be fun. The fun sometimes goes too far, like when some players drop water balloons out of a hotel window on other teammates.

Probably my favorite moment of the film is when the biggest game of the year is preceded by Haywood's lingering math problem that the majority of the team cannot even crack. It isn't until a savvy pitcher named Jim Bowers played by Jonathon Silverman comes out of the group to master the problem that seems to come out of left field.

This flick is the best baseball movie which should say a lot because there are many good baseball movies.

Miracle

This is a wonderful, all time great flick that if you haven't yet seen, you most certainly have heard of after the recent winter Olympics.

I enjoy this movie because I too was once a hockey player and know first hand of the game and how important that game itself was at it's time.

Kurt Russell plays coach Herb Brooks, coach of the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team. This was at the time where the Olympic hockey team was made up of college kids and not professional hockey players.

Russell is accompanied by mostly up and coming actors as well as actual hockey players that wanted to give acting a shot.

The story is of the U.S. Hockey team and its quest to defeat the U.S.S.R. Hockey team that hadn't lost in 20 years and was viewed as undefeatable in the public's mind. The Olympic games were to be held in Lake Placid, N.Y., that year which game the U.S. team an even higher expectation.

This film is the ultimate motivational movie, as well as one of the greatest stories of all time for sports lovers.

Wedding Crashers

Probably one of the funniest films I have seen recently, so funny the day it was released I went out and bought it, which doesn't happen often.

The story is of two friends John Beckwith and Jeremy Grey played by Owen Wilson and Vince Vaughn respectively.

These two friends scope out weddings and go to them posing as family of either the bride or groom.

The purpose of this of course is to meet girls and take them back to their place and sleep with them.

The movie could possibly be pretty lame if it were based solely on just crashing weddings, but to solve that, the movie follows Wilson and Vaughn on a weekend with a wedding family.

With everything that could possibly go always landing on Vaughn, and everything that is good going to Wilson, it makes this a classic comedy.

Other notable performers are Christopher Walken, as well as a cameo from James Carville.

This movie is not one that should be taken too seriously, but viewed by those wanting pure humor.

We Were Soldiers

This is a movie based on a true story that takes place in Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

Lt. Colonel Hal Moore is the leader of the "New Calvary," which basically meant soldiers would be dropped into battle by helicopters.

The story captures the mood of the actual battle and what all goes into the warfare.

It also covers the reaction back home in America by showing the soldier's wives and families.

The cast of this flick is headed up by Mel Gibson who plays Hal Moore.

Other known actors in this movie are Chris Klein, Barry Pepper and Keri Russell.

It is a flick for those who enjoy true stories as well as those who like war movies.

I would put this movie in the same group with movies like *Platoon* and *Saving Private Ryan*, which both won Academy Awards.

The gore is not overdone and the language is tolerable. It is a great flick that deserves attention.

A great movie for late at night, it is a movie targeted at most anyone, but is really enjoyed by thrill seekers who enjoy poker playing.

This movie came out before the popularity of Texas Hold 'Em really took flight.

Though during the movie references are made to professional poker players such as Johnny Chan, Eric Seidel and Doyle Brunson.

Matt Damon and Edward Norton co-star in this flick filled with deceit, lying and gambling for literally one's life.

Norton who plays a character named Worm owes a major gambling debt and his friend Mike (Damon) tries to help him pay it off after quitting the game of poker after losing a lump sum of money to a man named KGB played by John Malkovich who is connected to the Russian mob.

This is the type of movie that should be watched all the way through otherwise it will be hard to understand.

If you watch this flick on DVD, be sure to check out the special features that include tutorials and lessons on how to play the game of poker.

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MISSOURIAN LIFESTYLES

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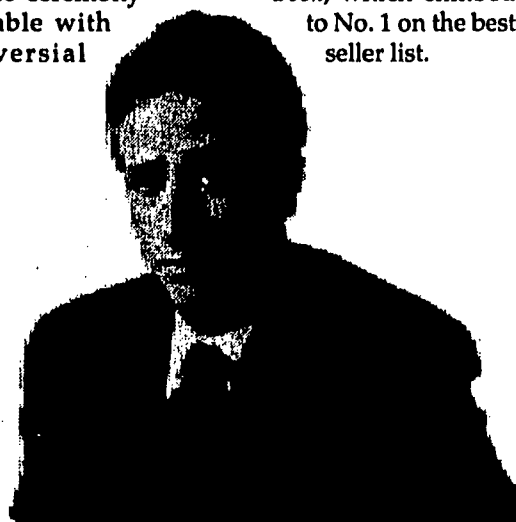
The Academy has selected everyone's favorite "fake news" correspondent to host this year's 78th Annual Academy Awards.

The Daily Show's Jon Stewart will be filling Chris Rock's shoes as Oscar host.

Stewart will certainly make the ceremony memorable with controversial

jokes regarding all of the hot-button issues portrayed in this year's Oscar films.

An actor, comedian, anchor and author, Stewart has done it all. His film credits include, *Death to Smoochy*, *Half Baked* and *The Faculty*. Recently, Stewart co-authored, *America: The Book*, which climbed to No. 1 on the best seller list.



The Northwest Missourian staff has voted, here are our picks for this year's Oscar Winners...

Best Picture

Munich

Actor

Joaquin Phoenix, *Walk the Line*

Actress

Reese Witherspoon, *Walk the Line*

Supporting Actor

Matt Dillon, *Crash*

Supporting Actress

Rachel Weisz, *The Constant Gardener*

Director

Steven Spielberg, *Munich*

And the nominees are...

Best Picture

Brokeback Mountain

Capote

Crash

Good Night, and Good Luck

Munich

Actor

Philip Seymour Hoffman, *Capote*

Terrence Howard, *Hustle & Flow*

Heath Ledger, *Brokeback Mountain*

Joaquin Phoenix, *Walk the Line*

David Strathairn, *Good Night, and Good Luck*

Actress

Judi Dench, *Mrs. Henderson Presents*

Felicity Huffman, *Transamerica*

Keira Knightley, *Pride & Prejudice*

Charlize Theron, *North Country*

Reese Witherspoon, *Walk the Line*

Supporting Actor

George Clooney, *Good Night, and Good Luck*

Matt Dillon, *Crash*

Paul Giamatti, *Cinderella Man*

Jake Gyllenhaal, *Brokeback Mountain*

William Hurt, *A History of Violence*

Supporting Actress

Amy Adams, *Juno*

Catherine Keener, *Capote*

Frances McDormand, *North Country*

Rachel Weisz, *The Constant Gardener*

Michelle Williams, *Brokeback Mountain*

Director

Ang Lee, *Brokeback Mountain*

Bennett Miller, *Capote*

Paul Haggis, *Crash*

George Clooney, *Good Night, and Good Luck*

Steven Spielberg, *Munich*

Foreign Film

Don't Tell, Italy

Joyeux Noel, France

Paradise Now, Palestinian Authority

Sophie Scholl: The Final Days, Germany

Tsotsi, South Africa

Adapted Screenplay

Brokeback Mountain

Capote

The Constant Gardener

A History of Violence

Munich

Original Screenplay

Crash

Good Night, and Good Luck

Match Point

The Squid and the Whale

Syriana

Animated Feature Film

Howl's Moving Castle

Tim Burton's Corpse Bride

Wallace & Gromit in the Curse of the Were-Rabbit

Art Direction

Good Night, and Good Luck

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire

King Kong

Memoirs of a Geisha

Pride & Prejudice

Cinematography

Batman Begins

Brokeback Mountain

Good Night, and Good Luck

Memoirs of a Geisha

The New World

Sound Mixing

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

King Kong

Memoirs of a Geisha

Walk the Line

War of the Worlds

Sound Editing

King Kong

Memoirs of a Geisha

War of the Worlds

Original Score

Brokeback Mountain

The Constant Gardener

Memoirs of a Geisha

Munich

Pride & Prejudice

Original Song

"In the Deep" Crash

"It's Hard Out Here for a Pimp" Hustle & Flow

"Travelin' Thru" Transamerica

Costume Design

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Memoirs of a Geisha

Mrs. Henderson Presents

Pride & Prejudice

Walk the Line

Documentary Feature

Darwin's Nightmare

Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room

March of the Penguins

Murderball

Street Fighter

Documentary Short Subject

The Death of Kevin Carter: Casualty of the Bang Bang Club

God Sleeps in Rwanda

The Mushroom Club

A Note of Triumph: The Golden Age of Norman Corwin

Film Editing

Cinderella Man

The Constant Gardener

Crash

Munich

Walk the Line

Makeup

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Cinderella Man

Star Wars, Episode III: Revenge of the Sith

Animated Short Film

9

Badgered

The Moon and the Son: An Imagined Conversation

The Mysterious, Geographic Explorations of Jasper Morello

One Man Band

Live Action Short Film

Ausreisser (The Runaway)

Cashback

The Last Farm

Our Time Is Up

Six Shooter

Visual Effects

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

King Kong

War of the Worlds

AND THE OSCAR GOES TO...

By Ashley Bally

S255035@nwmissouri.edu

The Academy Awards is one of the most watched and beloved ceremonies of the year.

With this year's ceremony, the Academy has reached its 78th year of honoring filmmakers and those who make them memorable.

The History of Oscar

Oscar will turn 78-years-old Sunday.

Everyone has seen the Oscar.

The shimmering gold award

granted to those lucky few

each year is much more

than meets the eye.

The coveted gold statue

depicts a knight clutching a sword. The knight stands upon the edge of a film reel with five sections to symbolize the five branches of the Academy. The branches

are actors, writers, directors, producers and technicians.

Oscar stands 13.5 inches tall and weighs 8.5 pounds. He was originally designed by MGM's Chief Art Director Cedric Gibbons.

What's in a name?

The story of how Oscar earned his name is centered in the '30s. The name apparently came from Academy librarian and Executive Director Margaret Herrick when she claimed the statue reminded her of her uncle Oscar.

The nickname caught on with the Academy in 1934.

Oscar tidbits

When Walt Disney earned the Oscar for *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* the Academy presented him with one full-size statue and seven mini-statues.

From 1942 to 1944, in an attempt to aid with the demands of World War II, the metal used to create the statue was donated to the war effort and Oscar was instead created with plaster.

The statues were first numbered in 1949 beginning with 501. To date 2,530 Oscars have been awarded.

The Academy

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences formed in May 1927. The Academy consists of 6,000 members, who are involved in motion picture production and craftsman. They are designed to promote education and cultural values of the Academy.

In spite of the attempts actors make each year to either support or mock a given political issue, the Academy does not support economic, labor or political matters.

Members represent the 14 branches of film-making: actors, art director, cinematographers, directors, documentary, executives, film editors, music, producers, public relations, short films and feature animation, sound visual effects and writers.

The categories have increased greatly since the 12 in 1927 to the 24

in 2003.

Ceremony history

The first Academy Awards ceremony took place May 16, 1929, during a banquet at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel. At the first event attendance topped out at 270 and tickets were \$5.

During the first ceremonies the winners were known beforehand and even printed in the local newspapers. They establish the "sealed envelope" in 1941 to prevent the winners from knowing before the announcement.

In 1941 the awards ceremonies were moved from the banquet style events to theaters, where they are still currently held.

The ceremonies have been steadfast from year to year. They have been interrupted only three times in history. They were post-poned when floods ripped through Los Angeles in 1938.

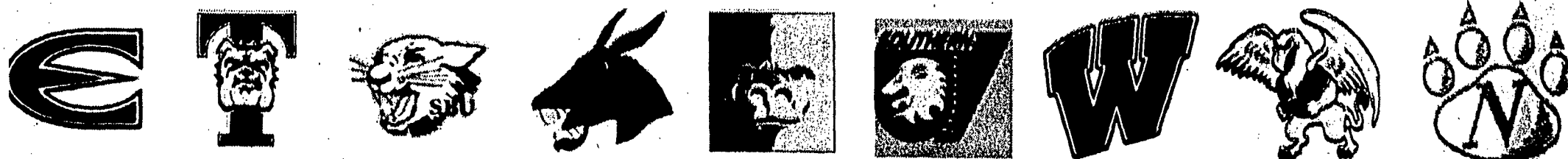
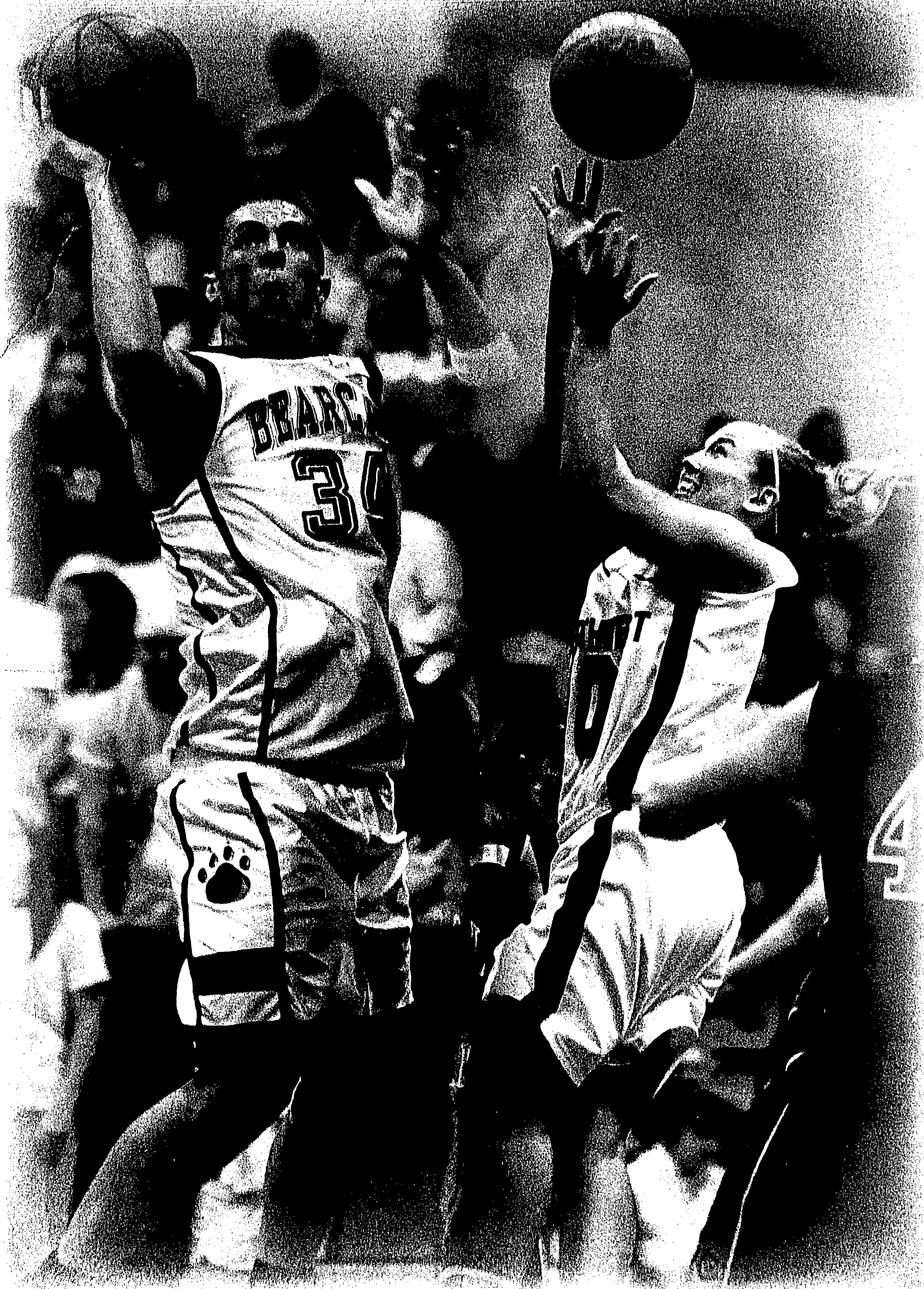
Martin Luther King Jr.'s funeral was held in 1968 and in 1981 when there was an assassination attempt on Ronald Reagan.

-information from oscar.com



Thursday, March 2, 2006 THE NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

March Madness



MIAA Post Season Tournament March 2-5, 2006
Municipal Auditorium, Kansas City



LAURA FRIEDERICH, left, fights for a loose ball as teammate Lauren Williams (34) looks on in a recent home basketball game.

Women confident about chances

By Brendan Kelley
S247132@nwmissouri.edu

When the Northwest Bearcat womens' basketball team takes the floor tonight inside Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, Mo., they will not be hoping for a win they will be expecting to win.

"My expectations are to go down and win the thing. There's no messing around; the time for messing around is over," coach Gene Steinmeyer said. "There are two attitudes you can have. You can go down there and hope you win or you can go down there and expect to win, and I'm not in the hoping stage, I'm in the expecting stage."

The 'Cats enter the tournament as the No. 6 seed and will face off with No. 3 seed Central Missouri State at 8:30 p.m. Thursday.

Northwest battled the Jennies two times already this season, falling both times to CMSU. The last time the two

faced off, CMSU handed the 'Cats a 77-68 loss at Bearcat Arena.

"We've left both the games against them this year with such a bitter taste in our mouths, because we have one great half against them and we know we can compete," senior Meghan Blay said. "We're right there with them, I think we definitely have a little bit of a revenge feeling."

For Blay and fellow senior Laura Friederich the motivation seems obvious.

As the team's only seniors, the tournament could be their last chance to step out onto a court wearing a Northwest jersey.

"Not to take anything away from anybody else, but it's just something that you feel when something that you've been doing more of your life than you haven't been doing it is about to come to an end," Friederich said.

Despite falling twice to

the Jennies, Steinmeyer feels that the 'Cats match up pretty evenly with their opponent, giving them an opportunity to win the game.

"I think we match-up pretty good with them. Both teams like to run and both teams play about the same kind of defense. It's a good match-up," Steinmeyer said. They've got one big kid and a bunch of fours, they've got a little size, a little mobility and they have some great three-point shooters.

"I think that if somebody was describing our team that might be the way they would describe our team."

At 15-12 on the season and 7-9 in the MIAA Northwest is coming off a mediocre season and the players are hoping that the incentive to win or go home will be enough to drive them through the tournament.

"It's do or die at this point, so we're really hoping we can pull some things together,"

Friederich said. "Maybe, return to some of our more fundamentally sound days."

While some may say the youth of this year's team could hurt them in the tournament, Steinmeyer looks at the pressure and format of tournament play as well as some comments made last weekend on a radio program as motivators that could actually help his team.

"The great thing about now is that you don't have to look anywhere but at what's in front of you, so there's no discussion on anything except Central," Steinmeyer said. "I was listening to a radio station on Saturday and the Washburn people were speculating that if Central lost two of their next three games, they would still make the region."

"Well, if you do the math that means that they figure the first round win is in the bag. That's pretty good motivation for me and I hope it is for the team."

Women's tournament breakdown

No. 1 Washburn vs. No. 8 Truman State at noon Thursday
Team: Washburn
Location: Topeka, Kan.
Record: (27-0, 16-0) 2006 MIAA conference champions
Scoring leader: Jennifer Harris-23.3 ppg
Rebounding leader: Megan Sullivan-6.9 rpg
Assists leader: Jennifer Harris-140 on the season
Location: Kirksville, Mo.
Record: (12-15, 3-13)
Scoring leader: Georgia Mueller-12.1 ppg
Rebounding leader: Natalie Schupbach-7.5 rpg
Assists leader: Katie Fowler-71 on the season
Prediction: Washburn will have no trouble handing Truman State a 20-point loss.

Team: Central Missouri State
Location: Warrensburg, Mo.
Record: (19-8, 11-5)
Scoring leader: Tiffany Vincent-14.7 ppg
Rebounding leader: Tiffany Vincent-6.4 rpg
Assists leader: Ashley Millham-98 assists on the season
Team: Northwest Missouri State
Location: Maryville, Mo.
Record: (15-12, 7-9)
Scoring leader: Laura Friederich-15.8 ppg
Rebounding leader: Mandi Schumacher-7.3 rpg
Assists leader: Meghan Blay-120 assists on the season
Prediction: Northwest has lost to Central twice this season. The third time will be a charm for the 'Cats. Northwest wins by six.

No. 2 Emporia State vs. No. 7 Pittsburg State at 6 p.m. Thursday
Team: Emporia State
Location: Emporia, Kan.
Record: (24-3, 13-3)
Scoring leader: Michelle Stueve-22.3 ppg
Rebounding leader: Michelle Stueve-9.0 rpg
Assists leader: Tegan Stuart-146 assists on the season
Team: Pittsburg State
Location: Pittsburg, Kan.
Record: (11-16, 4-12)
Scoring leader: Tracy Patry-15.4 ppg
Rebounding leader: Maggie Apt-6.8 rpg
Assists leader: Maggie Apt-78 assists on the season
Prediction: Emporia State grabs the win, but is unable to run away with it, taking the game by 10 in the end.

No. 4 Missouri Southern State vs. No. 5 Missouri Western at 4:30 p.m. Thursday
Team: Missouri Southern
Location: Joplin, Mo.
Record: (16-11, 8-8)
Scoring leader: Dacie Reutlinger-12.1 ppg
Rebounding leader: Robin Kantin-5.7 rpg
Assists leader: Marina Caran-112 assists on the season
Team: Missouri Western
Location: St. Joseph, Mo.
Record: (18-9, 8-8)
Scoring leader: Inga Buzoka-14 ppg
Rebounding leader: Inga Buzoka-7.5 rpg
Assists leader: Tiffany Davis-178 assists on the season
Prediction: Davis and Buzoka combine for a big night for the Griffons. The Lions struggle shooting from the perimeter and the Griffons win by four.

No. 3 Central Missouri State vs. No. 6 Northwest Missouri State at 8:30 p.m. Thursday

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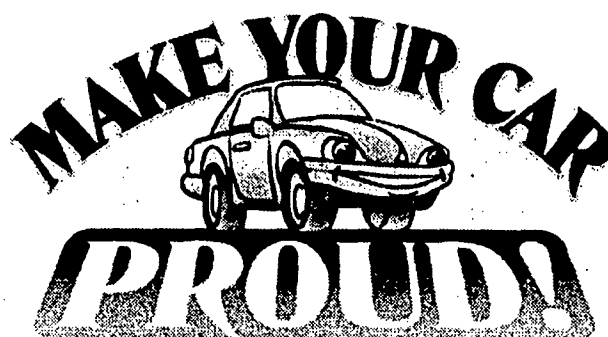
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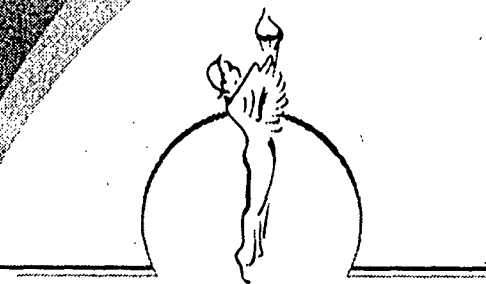
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GOOD LUCK BEARCATS AT MIAA!

Traveling Man

Senior Xzavier Gaines sports-oriented background and experience from a Division I powerhouse helps him at Northwest

By Jerome Boettcher
S247132@nwmissouri.edu

The towel barely covers his eyes as he stands just off to the side of the locker room.

He waits as reporters flock to him after dropping a career-high 31 points during his team's double-overtime victory.

"How could you see with two damaged eyes?" a reporter asks.

"My vision was pretty blurry; I don't know how I got 30

points or whatever," he replies as most of his left eye sits in a pool of a dark red blood color and his right eye scratched.

He smirks and shrugs his shoulders. For Xzavier Gaines this was just another part of a long journey.

A journey moving him a handful of times. A journey as a coach's son. A journey moving him from the sport he has loved to a sudden sensation in another. A journey allowing him to play on one of the country's elite programs.

And a journey that has now led him here—to the Northwest Missouri State men's basketball team.

Moving, moving, moving

For a brief part of his life, Xzavier lived in Kansas. Born in Wichita, Kan., to a high school basketball coach, Patrick Gaines, Xzavier moved around a lot.

"We moved a good bit, I can't really say a number," Xzavier said. "When I was growing up at least seven or eight times."

When Xzavier was about 3-years-old his family moved to Dallas, and stayed in Texas ever since, just moving around the state.

"(Patrick, Xzavier's father,) always going where the work was," Xzavier said. "...He got offered a head coaching job down in Texas and we just took it and ran with it."

Each of Xzavier's three brothers and two sisters enjoyed playing sports.

"It was interesting everyday," Xzavier said. "I don't even know how to put it but we all had our own unique nitch in the family. We all had our own identity, mom and dad were always supportive."

Since his family moves so often, it is to settle down but he said he has learned to adjust to it.

"It's actually going to have an affect on anybody, just being able to move and being able to adapt to different changes—it prepares you for life really," Xzavier said. "How you handle that is a big part that shows your character and your personality."

A Football Phenomenon

While Patrick Gaines was jumping around high schools he attempted to get a job at Westfield High School.

Patrick applied for a head basketball coaching position and was told jokingly if he had a quarterback for the football team, he'd have the job.

"My dad just ran it by me and he was like 'if we moved would you like to play football again,'" Xzavier said. "...I was like, shoot, what the heck?"

Xzavier took a shot and hit right on. Xzavier said that before he played the team went 0-10 but the following year, with Xzavier at the helm the team made the playoffs.

"I did some good there," he said.

In his senior year of football he completed 76 of 126 passes for

seven touchdowns and rushed for 523 yards and nine touchdowns.

From that one year of football Xzavier got swarmed with offers. Among the possible schools were Iowa State, Georgia Tech, Oregon and Syracuse.

"I ended up having people look at me," Xzavier said. "I was just doing it for fun."

Xzavier played in a roll-out, option-type of offense and said that he chose Syracuse University because they ran the same type of style offense.

Xzavier said he wanted to keep basketball apart of the equation and Syracuse allowed for that.

"Being recruited I knew I didn't want to give up basketball, so that was the whole agreement," Xzavier said. "So, I put that all in perspective... the opportunity that I was going to still get to play basketball and things like that and I just was putting that in my whole decision. Things just seemed to work the best for me."

The Orangemen

When Xzavier looks back on those days of dividing time between both football and basketball at Syracuse University, he uses one word to describe it:

"Hard."

"(Those were) the hardest days of my life, that was one of the reasons I had to choose (between sports). It was wear and tear on my body," he said. "Since I had a football scholarship and I walked-onto the basketball team, I had to fill my football priorities first."

Xzavier said the days could be rough as he moved back and forth from class to football workouts to basketball practice to weightlifting.

"I did that for two years and that just killed me, so it was hard," he said. But I had fun, I had fun, there's no doubt about it being around a program with a bunch of good guys and good coaches, things like that, just made it better."

Xzavier didn't see much playing time on the football field due to injuries and he was actually switched to wide receiver at one point during his college football career.

"I just made a decision to just stick with basketball," Xzavier said.

Xzavier stuck with basketball even though his playing time there was also very small. However, during his career Xzavier was a member of the 2003-2004 National Championship team and played for legendary coach Jim Boeheim. He also played alongside great players like Carmelo Anthony, Gerry McNamara and Hakim Warrick.

"It's something that I'm going to take with me for the rest of my life," Xzavier said. "Just being in that type of atmosphere, winning a national championship, being around a Hall of Fame coach in Jim Boeheim. Great players like Hakim Warrick, Carmelo (Anthony), (Gerry) McNamara all those good bunch of guys and things like that."

"It was just something that I learned a lot from, just being able to sit back and learn from coach and learn from the players. That's something I will really get to use here at Northwest in the locker rooms and on the court also. It's just been a blessing."

continued on 5C

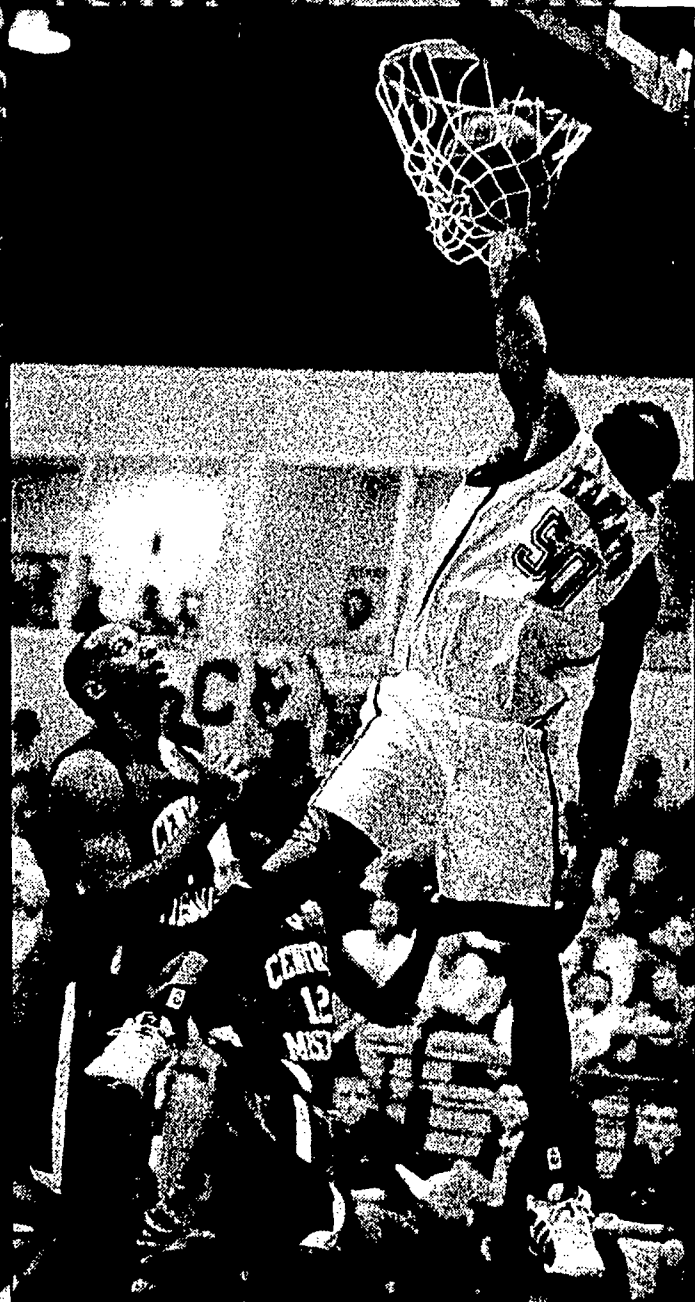



PHOTO BY MIKE DYE / NWMISSOURIAN


XZAVIER GAINES slams down a basket earlier in the season at a home game against Central Missouri State. Xzavier is currently averaging 13.3 points per game this season, good for second on the team.



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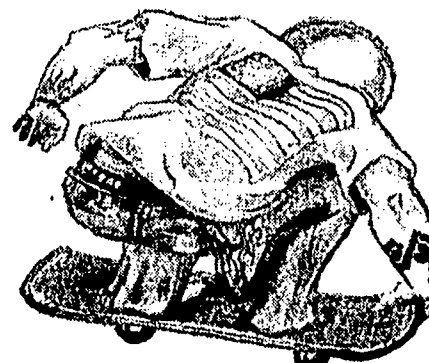
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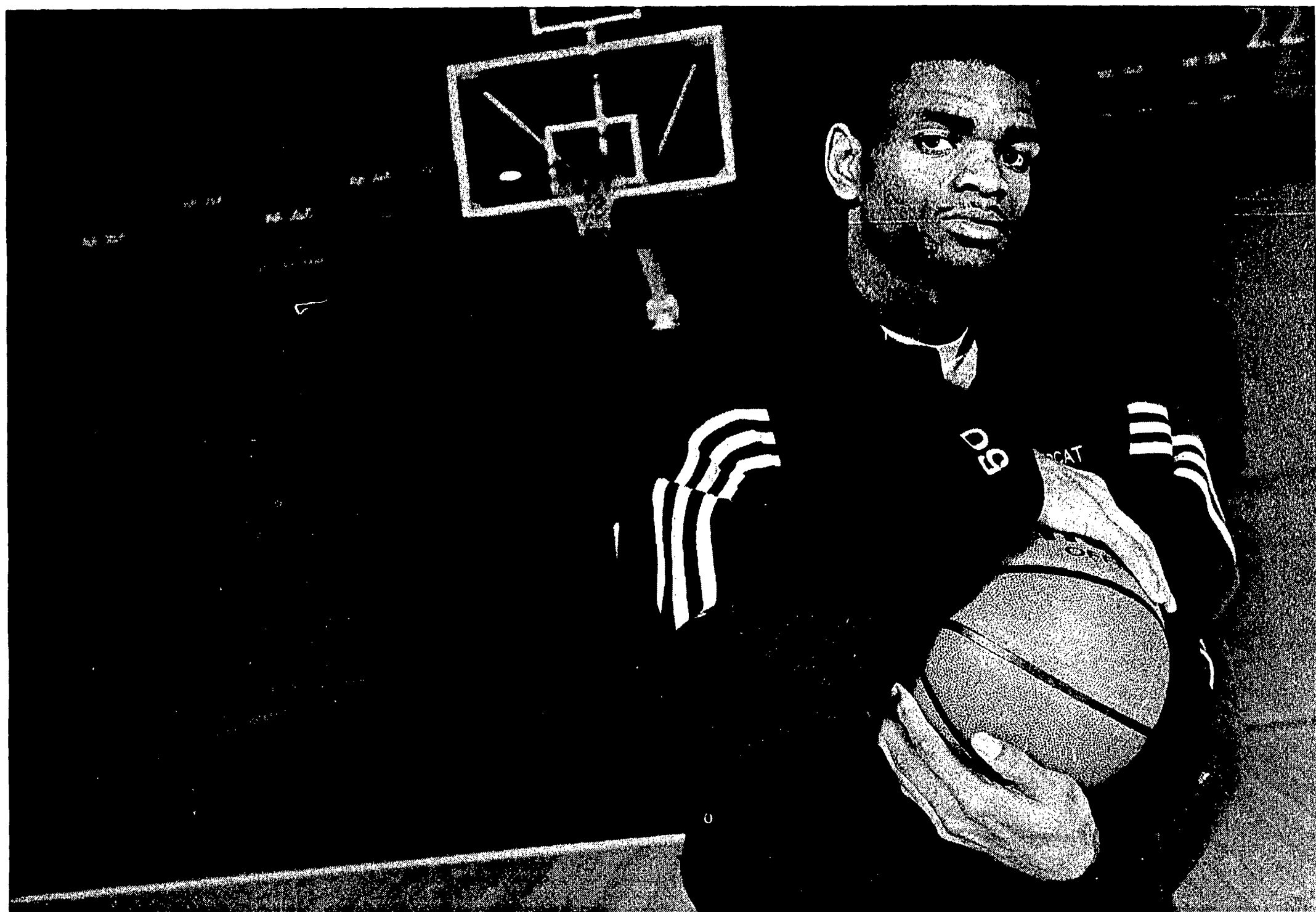


PHOTO BY MIKE DYE / NWMISSOURIAN

SECOND TEAM all-conference selection Xavier Gaines' athleticism comes from a sports-oriented family and his experience from participating on a national championship team has helped the Northwest men's basketball team excel this season.

continued from 4C

Another highlight of Xavier's time on the squad, along with being a national champion at Syracuse, was that he had the task of guarding future NBA All-Star Anthony in practice. Boenheim approached Xavier before the year with the challenge.

"We wanted to give (Anthony) some toughness, and (Boenheim) said 'we would like you to guard him,'" Xavier said. "It made me a better player, hopefully I made Carmelo better."

Xavier said it helped eventually to become a better defender.

"If I definitely can hold my own here, I definitely can hold an inch on anyone," he said. "Hopefully that can all work out in the long run."

Xavier said when he sees on television today he still thinks about the fact that he guarded him.

"Turning on the television, seeing Carmelo, seeing the shoes and all this kind of stuff, I'm like I guarded him everyday in practice—he's not that good," Xavier joked.

Xavier decided after he graduated from Syracuse last year that he wanted to continue to playing college basketball but knew that he probably would still see the amount of time on the court as he did the previous season. So he decided to look at other schools.

"That's something I definitely wasn't used to," Xavier said. "I just wanted to get out and try to see my chances elsewhere and that brought me here to Northwest."

Overall, though things didn't work out as planned at Syracuse, Xavier cherishes the experience.

"It's something I look back on and that I am real thankful for...I think I was pretty satisfied with my decision that I made to go to Syracuse, the weather was terrible though," Xavier joked. "It all

worked out, everything happens for a reason, I have no regrets about that."

Where's Maryville?

During Xavier's father Patrick's stay in Kansas, he coached at a few high schools. While coaching at those high schools he coached Darren Vorderbruegge in junior high.

More than 20 years later, Patrick got in contact with Vorderbruegge, now an associate head coach at Northwest, and asked if he wanted to look into his son.

"I think recruiting a lot of times doesn't really give you the player, I don't think it got us Xavier," Vorderbruegge said. "I think he came here like anybody else and had his visit, compared us to American International and compared his options. But I think the who you know (factor) got us onto him."

Though Xavier hadn't played much in college, he had average over 20 points his senior year at Westfield.

Xavier said he was pretty set on going to school at American International.

"I came here and it was pretty much everything I needed and everything I wanted, a grad program and little distractions in Maryville," Xavier said. "It just worked out for the best."

Northwest head coach Steve Tappmeyer definitely believes so.

"We got real fortunate with him because it was a shot in the dark," he said. "...So we got pretty fortunate I think because he's a very good player and we thought he was a pretty good player and he's probably even better than we thought he was when we brought him in."

"But he's been a good fit, sometimes the chemistry thing doesn't always work, we thought that part of it was a good gamble.

We liked him when he visited. Just knowing his family, sometimes that's a pretty good indication of what type a young man he is. He's a top notch guy."

Gaines took off after a slow start. He scored 16 points and grabbed 11 rebounds in a big win against Southwest Baptist, who was undefeated at the time. Then he scored a career-high 31 points in a double-overtime victory at Emporia State. What made both of those performances even more impressive was the Xavier was injured in both.

Xavier is second on the team in scoring with 13.3 points per game and first on the team in rebounding as he averages 4.8 rebounds per game.

"He's been a big part of our success," teammate Austin Meyer said.

Xavier said adjusting to playing basketball after a long layoff was something he had to deal with mentality.

"I was just nervous, I wanted to perform up to my capabilities and not let the coaches down and not let my team and I know I can play a big role on this team this year," Xavier said. "...It's like being a freshman all over again and playing in a game that actually means something."

Xavier is looking at draft camps for professional basketball. He said he isn't sure what exactly happen but is keeping his options open.

As for the long ride, Xavier said it has been something he will never forget for the rest of his life.

"Every experience and everything I've learned up to this point is going to help me tremendously in my life, overcoming adversity and being able to take over responsibility, both I have had to do," Xavier said. "Everything is going to play a huge role in what I decide to do."

By the numbers

31

Xavier's career high point total in a double overtime victory at Emporia State earlier in the season.

13.3

Xavier's points per game average this season, second on the team.

50

Xavier's jersey number.

Xavier was selected on the all-conference second team for the season.

2nd

2004

The season the Syracuse men's basketball team won the Division I National Championship. Xavier was on that team.

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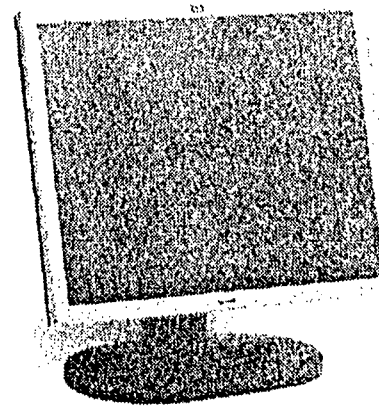
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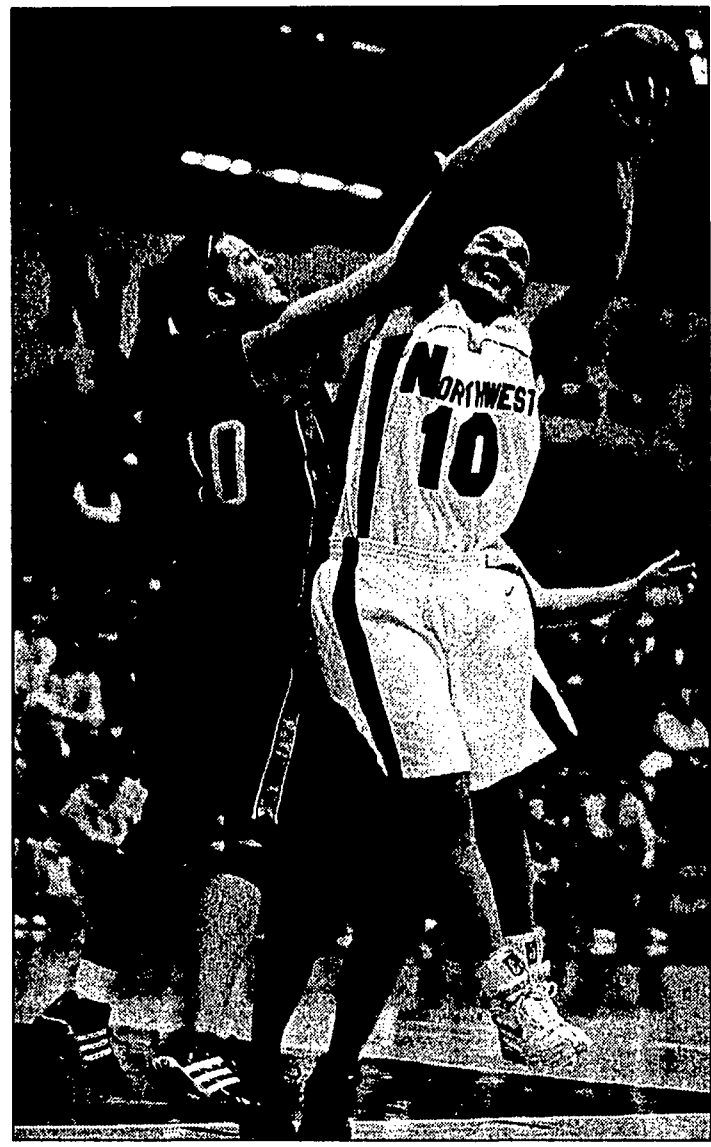
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Lasting impression

By Brendan Kelley
S255676@nwmissouri.edu

When womens' basketball coach Gene Steinmeyer called a timeout with about 30 seconds left to play in the Bearcats final home game of the year against Washburn, he took his two seniors out of the game.



LAURA FRIEDERICH powers up over a Central defender. Friederich leads the 'Cats in scoring this season averaging 15.8 points a game.

PHOTO BY MIKE DYE / NWMISSOURIAN

Meghan Blay and Laura Friederich received a warm applause from Bearcat fans and then they came to the sideline, grabbed some water and stared out at the court as if they didn't know exactly what to do.

"When we came out of the Washburn game I went down to get water and I looked out onto the court and I was in shock," Blay said. "I couldn't believe that, that was the last time that I was going to come off that floor for a game. It kept starting to hit me, but on a night that big you don't get a second to even think about it. After the game I had to just go home and think."

"I remember I went home and I sat and I couldn't answer the phone. I was just like what do I do now? I was just drained and in shock, but I guess you just have to let it sink in for a little bit."

Basketball has played an important role in the lives of Blay and Friederich since they were young and now that they are in their senior season their thoughts turn back to all the years they have spent playing this game.

"Like every little kid I tried a bunch of sports out. I played soccer, softball and football out at recess with the boys, but I just got hooked on basketball and just started loving it," Friederich said.

The only two seniors on this year's team didn't just meet by coincidence at Northwest. They have been friends since they were playing against each other in elementary school when Friederich played for The Wild Things and Blay played for the Mirage in Shawnee Mission, Kan.

In high school Blay went to Shawnee Mission Northwest while Friederich attended Shawnee Mission South. The two went to different high schools, but they were still very much aware of each other. In fact their teams met their senior year of high school in a game that neither one of them will ever forget.

"My last high school game was against Shawnee Mission Northwest in the regional final. Meghan and another girl who plays at Oakland University guarded me the whole time and I think I had four points and we got beat by 43," Friederich said.

The two start to smile as they recall the game. One of the moments of the game was captured in a photograph, which appeared in a local paper.

"Do, you remember that play?" Blay asks.

"Yeah, I came down and blocked someone's shot. I got a fastbreak and then you blocked me. I faked it a little bit and they called a foul," Friederich said with a smile.

While the two grew up around the same area and shared the same love of basketball they found their way to Northwest in two completely different ways.

Friederich came straight to Northwest and saw plenty of playing time from the very beginning. As a freshman, Friederich started 12 games and played in all 28.

"To be honest, if it would have been up to me I would have wanted to go DI. Northwest was the one place I decided I wasn't going to go, the summer before my senior year," she said. "Stein just kept writing and calling. I finally came for a visit and it just felt right here and I'm thankful for that because I've loved it here."

Blay, on the other hand, chose to start her college basketball career at the University of Missouri-Kansas City where she saw action in 15 games her freshman season.

The division I school wasn't everything she had expected it to be, and she began to feel as though she was losing her love for the game she had played all her life.

"My freshman year I think 99 percent of the team started counting down to the end of the days of practice and games from day three. I think everyone had a countdown because it was not fun and all work.

"For me basketball had always been so fun. I think for the first time ever I realized that I was going to lose my love and passion for the game if I didn't get out," Blay said.

Blay started searching for other options and as it turned out even though the two girls had gone to different schools and started down different paths their fathers continued to talk. Friederich's dad said that he thought Northwest might be a good match for Blay.

"Our dads kept talking even after high school and the next thing I knew I was getting e-mails from Laura and I came up for a visit and kind of sorted things out," Blay said.

At first glance, Maryville was not exactly what Blay had been looking for and had it not been for a great time hanging out with Friederich, she may have never decided to stay at Northwest.

"I remember pulling into Maryville, I was thinking I don't think this is going to work," Blay said. "But, then I met all the girls. Laura and I stayed up till 4:30 a.m. talking that day, we drove to Rockport and got breakfast and she had an 8 a.m. class. After that it just felt good, it just clicked."

That's all in the past now, Blay and Friederich have been thrust into leadership roles this year on a team that is dominated by sophomores. They have each taken their own approach and filled the roles that they felt would best help the team.

"Laura has taught them intensity. She has averaged between 10 and 14 points a game her whole career and I think that says a lot about her," Steinmeyer said. "Meghan is the director, if someone's not in the right place we look to Meghan to get them to the right place."

"Meghan has done a great job at point guard; her assist to turnover ratio is two to one. She has been willing to take a backseat to the scorers and give up a little bit of the limelight. Coming from a division I program I give her a lot of credit for that."

At 15-12 on the season and 7-9 in the MIAA the 'Cats have had some good and bad times this year. The season will serve as

the last memories for the two seniors and their coach hopes that the team will be able to help them out in making some more memories before it's all done with.

"It's hard to send them out in a mediocre season," Steinmeyer said. "I wish we had a 20-win season for these guys to go out on, they deserve that. But, right up till the final buzzer, you keep fighting and who knows what can happen. Hopefully we've got some memories left for them."

Now the two seniors, captains and friends face one last opponent, one last game, which could end their basketball careers. No matter what happens, though, they know that everything will work out in the end, they know because it has already worked out.

"My junior year, when things were kind of rough and we were losing a lot, my dad said just enjoy playing with Meg. Get out there and have some fun," Friederich said.

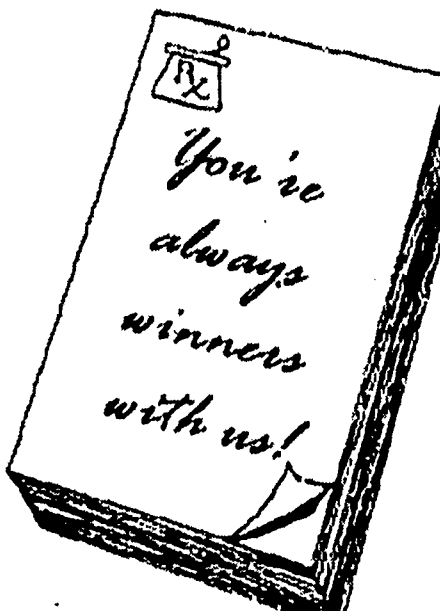
A smile comes to Blay's face as she listens to her teammate speak.


"I think we always kind of return to that, especially as it has been ending this year. Maybe because we know it's really ending for us and we've gotten to play together for this long, and we've loved it, but we always look at each other and we're like okay let's do it," Blay said.




MEGHAN BLAY tries to work her way around a Central defender. Blay has stepped up into a leadership position this season leading the team with 120 assists.

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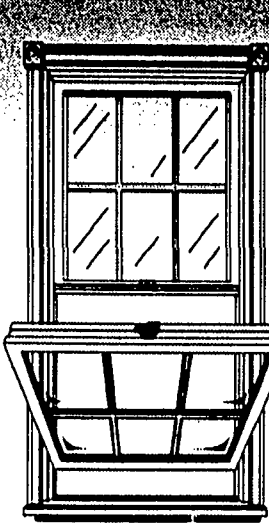
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